

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVIII.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	427
Leading Articles:—	
Japan and Russia	428
The Health of China Ports	428
Cruelty to Animals	429
Limits of Newspaper Discussion	429
Cotton	430
Hongkong Jottings	430
Hongkong Legislative Council	431
Hongkong Sanitary Board	433
New Commander-in-Chief in Hongkong	434
Rough Weather Outside Hongkong	434
A Shipping Scandal	434
The Meat Supply of Hongkong	434
New Harbour Office	435
The Charity Bazaar	435
The Ministering Children's League	435
Young Men's Christian Association	435
Masonic Installation	436
Notes from the Botanic Gardens	436
The Kiaochau Budget	436
Canton	436
Pakhoi	437
Correspondence	437
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.	438
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	439
Supreme Court	439
Inquest on Sergt. Mann	441
Sporting Notes	441
Cricket	442
Football	442
Royal Hongkong Golf Club	442
Shooting	442
A Queen's Road Joss-House	442
A British Possession Near Hongkong ..	443
Hongkong	443
Miscellaneous	443
Commercial	444
Shipping	446

BIRTHS.

On the 16th October, at Edinburgh, the wife of E. H. FRASER, Consul-General at Hankow, of a son.

On the 25th November, at 48, Grange Road, Shanghai, the wife of G. SCHUNKEL, of a daughter.

On the 27th November, at 48, Bubbling Well, Road, Shanghai, the wife of the Rev. W. GILBERT WALSH, of a daughter.

On the 27th November, at Foochow, the wife of L. M. F. GRANT, of a son.

On the 29th November, at 5, Montford Place, Shanghai, the wife of W. T. WATTS EVANS, of a daughter.

On the 30th November, at Shanghai, the wife of W. F. LODER, of a daughter.

On December the 11th, at Stokes Bungalow, the Peak, Hongkong, the wife of the Rev. WALTER J. SOUTHAM, of a son.

DEATHS.

On the 29th November, at the Victoria Nursing Home, HERMANN MAASS, of Heilbronn, aged 23 years.

On the 5th December, at the London Mission, Hongkong, HELEN DONALD STEVENS, Matron, of the Nethersole Hospital.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 6th ult. arrived per P. & O. steamer *Simla*, on the 7th inst. (32 days); and the German Mail of the 10th ult. arrived by the N.D.L. steamer *Kiautschou*, on the 10th inst. (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A strong draft of the Sherwood Foresters left Parkhurst on the 7th inst., en route for Hongkong. They were unaccompanied by their wives and families, which is significant.

The Governor having left Macao for Europe, the administration is now in the hands of the Bishop, Chief Justice, and Harbour Master. Dr. Luiz Forte is acting Colonial Secretary.

Owing to Mr. Giles, the British Assessor's absolute rejection of the Chinese Magistrate's premature judgement in the Mixed Court, the *Supao* case has been stopped pending reference to Peking.

The Emperor of Japan opened the Diet on the 10th instant. At the conclusion of the sitting the Diet unanimously adopted a resolution censuring the Ministry for its conduct of foreign affairs. The Diet is dissolved to-day.

The German Chancellor Count von Bulow declared in a speech in the Reichstag on the 6th inst., that Germany has no concern with Manchuria and is not deterred by the crisis in the Far East from assiduously cherishing her relations with Russia.

The Russian Government, according to the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, has notified the other Powers that the re-occupation of Moukden by Russian soldiers was the answer to the refusal of China to discharge a *Taotai* who was unfriendly to the Russian residents at Moukden.

The N.-C. *Daily News* Tokyo correspondent telegraphed on the 29th November: Events indicate the probability of a coalition and perhaps fusion of the *Seiyukai* and the Progressists, with the probable result that the Cabinet will meet with strong opposition in the Diet, unless it shows some progress in the negotiations with Russia.

The appointment of a successor to the late Bishop Anzer of South Shantung is causing some difficulty, says a telegram to the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, as the proper man for the place cannot be found. The reception which Bishop Anzer had in Rome by the Pope, as well as by the Secretary of State and the Prefect of the Propaganda, was exceedingly hearty, and has shown the great consideration in which he was held by the Vatican.

The *Standard* says that if the encroachments of Russia are to be stopped, now is the time to do it, when Japan can deal a blow effectively, but no friend of Japan can contemplate a collision without the deepest solicitude and sorrow; whatever her present vulnerability may be Russia has almost inexhaustible reserves and may expect to recover hereafter whatever she is temporarily compelled to forgo.

It is reported from Moukden, according to a telegram to the *Jiji*, that the Russian Commander there has declared that the Tartar General and his office must remove outside of the city. The Chinese troops in the city are also to be withdrawn. The Commander has further declared that Shiyataishien and Kaijinhien are important stations for the recruiting of mounted bandits, and that these places will be governed by Russia in future.

The two Chilean battleships *Constitution* and *Libertad* have been bought by Great Britain, not by Japan, as at first supposed. The price paid was £1,875,000. The *Constitution* and *Libertad* (as they were provisionally called) were built at Elswick and Barrow respectively. They are vessels of 11,800 tons and 13,000 i.h.p., being fitted with Yarrow large-tube boilers. They are 466 feet long, 71 ft. broad, and their draught is 24½ ft. Their armour is 7.3 in. belt, 3 in. deck, 7 in. above belt 3 in. bulk-head, and 10.7 in. gun position. They carry four 10 in., fourteen 7.5 in., fourteen 14 pr., four 6 pr., four Maxim, and two light guns, and have two submarine torpedo-tubes; and their speed is 19 knots.

The rumours of the impending Russo-Japanese settlement are daily becoming more persistent and precise, said a Reuter's despatch last week end. The Associated Press of New York publishes a circumstantial telegram from S. Petersburg stating that, as a result of the Tsar's action, Russia's reply makes only minor modifications of Japan's proposals, which, if accepted, Russia will acknowledge Japan's right to a protectorate of Corea, while making reservations regarding naval stations and fortifications threatening the sea communications of Port Arthur and Vladivostock. Russian concessions for freedom of trade in Corea will be guaranteed and the question of the evacuation of Manchuria left in abeyance.

The Korean Foreign Minister in his reply to the Russian Minister's objection to the opening of Ryong-an (Yong-ampho) points out that his interference with the affair was equivalent to interfering with the integrity of Corea. On the other hand, the Korean Foreign Minister informed the Japanese Minister that the pressure exercised by Japan to secure the opening of Korean ports exceeds the usual limits of diplomatic procedure. A *Mainichi* telegram says:—The note sent in by Mr. Hayashi now proves to have been of an unofficial nature. The note was couched in such very strong terms that the Foreign Minister returned it to Mr. Hayashi with a request that he would not interfere with the domestic administration of Corea. All the same, it is believed that the note has opened the eyes of the Korean officials to the peril they are running, and they are likely to take up a strong attitude vis-à-vis Russia.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 8th December.)

The exhortation of the London *Standard* to Japan with regard to the encroachments of Russia reminds us of the saying about the ease of giving advice and the difficulty of taking it. No doubt the *Standard's* advice was honestly meant, but Japan may well be excused if she does not show extreme gratitude for it. What, in effect, is said by the London journal is:—"Russia's attitude is extremely dangerous and will grow worse. Now is the time to stop her, but we shall be very sorry to see you fight her; and if you do so she is bound to recover in time what she may lose now." The argument is almost childish ingenuous, and carried to its proper conclusion the *Standard's* idea seems to be that Russia cannot be stopped. Why then advise Japan to try to stop her? What will all the solicitude and sorrow in the world avail in aiding a friend in a hopeless task? Either the *Standard* thinks that it is for the good of mankind that Russia's encroachments should cease or it does not think so. If it thinks so, then why does it hold that Japan alone should undertake the task? If not, why again urge Japan to try? But to leave the *Standard's* bad reasoning aside, what are we to think of the statement that, "whatever Russia's present vulnerability, she has almost inexhaustible resources and may expect to recover hereafter whatever she may temporarily be compelled to forego?" Are Russia's resources inexhaustible? It seems to us that this very much requires proving. In men Russia may be practically impossible to exhaust, and their very lack of education and civilisation renders those men loyal to their Government, however rotten. To such men the commander of the Russian Army Corps at Belostock last month spoke when he told the 62nd Infantry in a farewell speech before they left for the Far East:—"There are crafty people in the Far East who want to rob Russia of what she has conquered with her blood. The Tsar is sending his soldiers there to defend, should occasion arise, the honour of their native land, and to prevent our enemies from carrying out their plans." In these easily-led men Russia is rich. But in money, which is called the sinews of war, in no sense can Russia be deemed incapable of exhaustion. Financially she does little more than keep her head above water, by the aid of complaisant France. It is really a matter to be wondered at that Russia's pretension to so great a voice in international affairs is countenanced as it is. An ill-governed, semi-barbarous Empire, whose rulers remain in their place only through the ignorance of the ruled and whose credit is dependent on a purely political alliance with a highly civilised state which already shows signs of repentance over its bargain with Russia yet cowers the majority of the nations by her sheer brute mass—and through the jealousies and self-seeking of the others. Must such a state of affairs continue indefinitely? It will, if the more enlightened countries do not make a common stand. We read in a review of the international situation in a recent number of the New York *Commercial Advertiser*:—"The general drift is toward dissolution, a re-arrangement of the Triple Alliance and the Dual Alliance also. The three despotic Empires—for in foreign affairs Germany and Austria are fully as despotic as Russia—show a tendency to unite their forces. On the other hand, the free countries—Great Britain, France, Italy, the United States, and Japan—are irresistibly moving

toward something like a common understanding. Just how far this drift may go no one can say, but the natural causes which have made it possible are certain in future to leave their mark on history." This is very sanguine, and as applied to the position of affairs in the Far East is not borne out. We see little tendency on the part of France and Italy toward an understanding on Chinese matters with the other three Powers whose names are coupled with theirs above; rather the reverse is at present the case with France. Nor can it be said that Britain or the United States are doing much except talk at Japan, rather than with her. Were such language as the *Standard's* typical of the real British attitude, it would be easy to see that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is a paper alliance merely. But we do not believe that this is the case. Nor do we think that the United States are prepared to see their agreement with China flouted by Russia, as far as it affects Manchuria. Unfortunately the present strain is very wearing to all engaged as well as to the watchers. It is hard to think that a little more candour and decision on the part of the boasted commercial nations of Britain and the States would have relieved the extreme tension and brought about a speedier settlement of the question which we still hope can be settled without recourse to arms.

(Daily Press, 9th December.)

REUTER's telegram of the 4th instant informed us that the reported Russo-Japanese agreement (which included a settlement of both the Manchurian and Korean difficulties) was discredited at Tokyo. A Tokyo telegram of the same date to the *North-China Daily News* confirms this, stating that the peaceful news from Paris not supported, by the way, in Berlin was ridiculed at the Japanese capital and considered to be pure invention. There is not much to be surprised at in this, seeing that the state of feeling at Tokyo, as evidenced by the tone of the leading newspapers, has been anything but conciliatory lately. These journals all, according to a despatch to our Shanghai morning contemporary on the 1st instant, agree in denouncing Russia for her delay in replying to Japan's proposals, and declare that the nation can no longer endure to be thus slighted, and must demand a definite answer, failing which it must take independent steps to secure the interests of the State. Even the men in business circles, it is added, advocate a similarly resolute policy, which is also avowed by all political parties in Japan, a very significant point, seeing that the differences between the political extremes in Japan has lately been very wide. REUTER's telegram in our issue of to-day, reporting a "temporary lull in Far Eastern affairs" and a concentration of attention on the opening of the Japanese Diet, which was to take place formally yesterday, indicates that Japan's attitude is being anxiously watched by the rest of the world. Hitherto it has been admitted generally that this attitude has been correct, even marvellously calm, and nothing could have been done more to win sympathy for the Japanese than this fact. It was never expected that the Government would be able to keep the hot-headed section of the nation in hand so admirably. As we have suggested before, it is a pity that the nations which profess, and no doubt feel, this sympathy with Japan have not thought fit yet to give more open tokens of their feelings. The countries with commercial interests make no secret of the fact that they consider that the success of Russia, in negotiations or in war, means

the closed door in North-east Asia and the ruin of such foreign settlements as at present exist there. But their diplomatic representatives have not the courage to proclaim these sentiments or to act upon them. Future history will not acquit them of the charge of betraying their countries' interests. But we are living in the present.

THE HEALTH OF CHINA PORTS.

(Daily Press, 10th December.)

That the Far East has not at home the best of reputations in the matter of health, either as regards European residents or as far as the native population is concerned, is well known. After living out here for some years, one may occasionally give a thought to the question how far this reputation is justified, but one cannot as a rule come to any definite conclusion. It is with a certain amount of interest, therefore, that we may look at the newly issued medical reports brought out by the Imperial Maritime Customs, nominally for the year ended the 30th September, 1902, though the individual reports vary considerably in the yearly periods covered. Thirteen doctors contribute to the collection, and the ports whose health is reviewed range from Tientsin in the north to Szemao and Hoihow in the south. We may run through these briefly, as the best way of giving a general picture of the whole. It will be seen that, roughly speaking, the Yangtze ports are far the least desirable places of residence for Europeans, both north and south of China being healthier. Canton was suffering from an exceptionally bad period when under notice, so that it must not be condemned on such evidence alone.

Tientsin, with which the series of reports commences, is declared by Dr. H. R. ROBERTSON to have had a very satisfactory year in 1901, the admirable work of the Provisional Government being the chief factor in this. The native city was taken over temporarily and well cleaned—for the first time in its history, it may be presumed. The result was good general health among natives and foreign residents. The health of the troops in garrison was on the whole satisfactory also. Plague was escaped up to the end of the year 1901. Unhappily the same has not been the case since, and there can be no doubt that the health of North China, by reason of epidemics, has much deteriorated since 1901. Chefoo is taken at a later period, the half-year March-September, 1902. Six cases of scarlatina occurred in one foreign compound, four being second attacks, which Dr. GULOWSEN thinks unique; two of the patients died. The disease was probably imported from Shanghai. The lamentable outbreak of cholera or of ptomaine-poisoning, as the doctor holds, at the China Inland Mission School, Chefoo, took place in this period, thirteen boys dying out of nineteen attacked; four French sailors died soon after with similar symptoms, and a fifth was attacked but recovered. Gastro-enteritis abounded in the native city, but Dr. GULOWSEN will not admit the presence of cholera.

Hankow during 1901 was worse off in health matters than usually, the causes being an abnormally dry spring and heavy floods during the wet and steamy summer. No epidemic visited the port, but the usual small-pox was present among the natives. Still, remittent fever in the spring and malaria, dysentery, etc., in the summer made matters unpleasant in the first half of the year. The late autumn and winter were fairly healthy. Five European residents of Hankow and twelve non-residents, of whom eleven were blue-jackets, contracted

typhoid. Four Europeans died of phthisis. The total number of foreign deaths was eighteen. In the small Yangtze port of Wuhu, the general foreign health was good for the last nine months of 1901 and the first three of 1902. One child died from convulsions, and there were fifteen cases of malarial fever. Floods and a long spell of hot, damp weather were conducive to numerous minor ailments. The natives suffered much from tuberculosis. Chinkiang during the same period had a health record "benign and uneventful." No deaths occurred in the foreign community and no serious illness was treated; the Chinese, on the other hand, suffered much from diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever, and small-pox. At Nanking in the half-year ending the 31st March, 1902, malaria and diarrhoea were what the foreign residents chiefly suffered from. There were floods here too, affecting considerably the quarter of the city in which the Customs students lived, and the latter were more attacked in consequence. Much malaria and dysentery prevailed among the natives, and there was a severe epidemic of measles. Wenchow, Chekiang, in the corresponding period, was healthy for foreigners, and there was no unusual sickness among the Chinese. In the next half-year about 5,000 or 6,000 native deaths from cholera were estimated at Wenchow, but foreigners did not suffer, though the general health was below the average, fever, diarrhoea, and debility being the principal complaints. The Soochow report deals with the period September, 1901, to September, 1902, which was one of the worst years for that part of China ever experienced. Diphtheria, scarlet fever, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and malaria abounded; only one foreigner died, from dysentery, complicated with malaria, but 20,000 natives died in the six months in Soochow city itself.

Coming further south, we find Dr. RINGE remarking on the great amount of serious sickness and the unusual mortality in the foreign community of Canton in the half-year ending the 31st March, 1902. Seven fatal cases of cholera occurred, the same disease commencing among the natives in epidemic form in January, 1902. Diarrhoea was common among the Europeans, and so was climatic fever; there were three cases of typhoid. Hoihow, with its small foreign population of under 70, was healthy in this same half-year, as also was Pakhoi; but in the former place there was some malaria, which is prevalent among the natives there. In the next half-year, i.e. down to the 30th September, 1902, the foreign communities at both Hoihow and Pakhoi continued healthy, but Dr. Lasells at the Hainan port insists on the necessity of vacations and of residents not waiting until their health is impaired. Cholera was in evidence among the Chinese in the Hoihow neighbourhood, and there was plague and cholera at Pakhoi, not to mention much diarrhoea. At Szemao in the year up to April, 1902, malaria was far the most prevalent affection, as much as ten or twelve burials a day of victims taking place during the worst period; nothing is said of any foreign resident. At Mengtze at the beginning of 1902 Dr. BARBEZIEUX declares a very satisfactory sanitary condition. A little influenza and diarrhoea had occurred among the European population of just over 30. Digestive, skin, and eye maladies were most severe among the Chinese.

As a result of the Allen case in Manila the merchants of Manila have petitioned Congress for an amendment of the Contract Labour Law, so that it may not apply to accountants, stenographers, and clerks, etc.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

(Daily Press, 5th December.)

A rather amusing argument has been proceeding at Shanghai lately—amusing though arising out of so serious a subject as the prevention of cruelty to animals. In Shanghai, as here, there is a society trying to stop the sufferings inflicted on animals by the unthinking or callous. In aid of this S.P.C.A. a little while ago Mr. C. E. DARWENT, minister of the Union Church, Shanghai, preached a sermon, warmly advocating its work. Letters in the papers followed, and then "to his amazement," as he says himself, Mr. DARWENT found his words construed into a deliverance in favour of vegetarianism. Mr. DARWENT protests, in a letter to the *North-China Daily News*, that he will "eat roast pheasant with anyone," that he has "no sympathy with vegetarianism either in practice or theory," that the arguments in favour of vegetarianism are based on "false logic, false psychology, or weak sentiment," and then goes on: "It is said that life is sacred and that it is wrong to take life. It is not. Life is not sacred. It is personality that is sacred. To kill a man is murder, it is a violation of personality; to put your foot on a black beetle is not murder. And the life of an ox is no more sacred than that of a beetle." And so he continues, finding that the pain inflicted in abattoirs is slight and momentary, and that it is far better from the oxen's, sheeps', fowls', and game-birds' point of view to have lived and be expeditiously killed than never to have been killed at all. Finally the minister protests against a "vegetarian red herring being dragged across the path" of his sermon. The controversy has its amusing aspect, as we have said; but it has also its sad side. It is hardly edifying to see a minister of religion at such pains to prove that the standpoint of the carnivore is the one approved by his religion, i.e. by God, and that those who disagree are weak sentimentalists. We are not going here to enter upon a plea for vegetarianism, which is to us a counsel of perfection, we confess. But we cannot allow that it is not the logical outcome of admitting the rights of animals and of any campaign for the prevention of cruelty to animals. It is for this very reason that otherwise honest people tangle themselves up so desperately when they endeavour to deny the relation between the conclusion and the premises. So now we find Mr. DARWENT in Shanghai arguing that it is not wrong to take life; that life is not sacred, but personality is; that you may kill an unpersonal ox or a profane black-beetle, but not sacred personality-endowed man. Herein he begs the greatest question that can be begged in this world. A charming assumption of superior knowledge on this point may be seen in the following sentence, which occurs in the same letter in the *Daily News*:—"Lay hold of the distinction between life and personality, which so many people, who do not think clearly, confuse, and the argument on this ground is left without a logical leg to stand upon." "Clear thinkers," "logical legs"! Are these all arrayed on the side of those that see a personality in man and only life in the other animals? We must say that we prefer the frank sportsman for sport's sake and the *bon vivant* to the clear thinker who has to disguise the conclusion to which his premises are pointing.

But it must be admitted that the practical side of work to prevent cruelty to animals lies, under the present conditions of thought upon the subject, in checking unnecessary suffering inflicted by man and insuring

painless execution, as far as possible, of animals destined for food. That there is a tremendous field of operation in China, and in the European settlements in China as much as anywhere, cannot be denied. In Hongkong there is much work to be done. Some is being done already by our local S.P.C.A. But there is much which they have not been able to touch yet. We propose soon to point out a very terrible state of things, which has been going on for many years unchecked, and which is not due to any needs of the Chinese, but to those of the Europeans and others who have settled here.

LIMITS OF NEWSPAPER DISCUSSION.

(Daily Press, 11th December.)

Our outspoken contemporary the *Kobe Chronicle* had a leading article recently on "the limits of newspaper discussion." The question is one that must necessarily arise in every part of the world where a newspaper exists and must exercise the mind of any one either conducting or reading a newspaper. It is a familiar saying that a man with a grievance will write to the *Times*, that journal being taken as the most typical and the widest-read in the world. But it is not of course only on grievances, so called, that people are ready often to address themselves to the Press. They may have opinions to advance or others' opinions to combat; and the most public way of so doing, if one is not a politician, is to get one's views into print. But then arises the query to what extent the editor should give a hearing to those who wish to get one, and how far he should himself discuss debatable subjects. It has grown to be a custom, at home, to taboo religious and most moral discussions, but to allow free play, within the limits of the laws of libel and of decency, to arguments on other matters. There are a number of journals, no doubt, which refuse to be bound by any exclusive rules and will, when the occasion arises, discuss religious and moral subjects in a free manner; such, if they are not papers devoted to the exposition of questions of the kind, are apt to court rebuke. That this is just cannot be allowed, provided the treatment of the subject by the journal is worthy. The *Kobe Chronicle* on this point writes as follows:—"A newspaper should, it seems to us, take the whole world for its province, social, political, or religious, and, while giving the fullest opportunity for the expression of dissent from editorial or other views set forth, should not hesitate to deal in a straightforward fashion with any matter of public importance that may arise." This appears to us, too, the correct attitude to adopt. It is one, perhaps, which grows more difficult in proportion to the smallness of the place in which the journal is issued. Therefore one might expect to find it more difficult in the Far East than at home. But, to compensate for this, there is undoubtedly a greater freedom of thought, in many ways, induced by residence so far from home—in spite of the proverb that crossing the sea changes the clime but not the mind. The tendency of the world is, for all the reactions which periodically take place, toward greater freedom of thought, and therefore of discussion.

We confess that this subject was suggested to us by certain letters which have appeared in other columns of this journal on the subject of "Missionaries and the Press," though it must be said that the discussion has not confined itself very closely

to that subject, but has wandered rather into that of Christianity in the Far East. We do not propose to resume the consideration of the question here, but merely to justify, if any justification is necessary, the freedom allowed to correspondents to express their views, though these views must necessarily be painful to a certain number of others to hear. No expression of honest conviction should really pain; it is the wanton abuse of others' convictions, if they be similarly honest, which is to be reprehended. And this abuse is, unfortunately, not limited to one side only in any great religious controversy.

COTTON.

(Daily Press, 7th December.)

The news about the wild excitement in the cotton market, as noted in our London correspondent's telegram on Saturday and in REUTER'S telegrams which we publish to-day, was to a certain extent anticipated and dreaded, though the exact pitch to which the speculating fever rose was not perhaps looked for. Brokers fighting one another in their eagerness to buy or sell, prices rising ten or twenty points at a rush, fortunes made and lost within five minutes, all this recalls some of the most sensational days of speculation. The history of this cotton affair is noteworthy. An interesting article appeared in the *Times of India* lately, dealing with the cotton position and giving some statistics of which we are glad to avail ourselves. Formerly the trade was accustomed to a visible supply of cotton at the end of the season of about two million bales, but, as the demand showed indications of overtaking the supply, this figure became reduced. In 1897-8 and 1898-9 the American crop each year gave a total of about eleven and a quarter million bales, and what were regarded as normal figures were again resumed. In 1899-1900 the American crop was under nine and a half million bales, and the average for the past three years has been just over 10,600,000 bales, so that, with an increasing consumption, the yearly offtake has exceeded the supply, the result being that there has been a withdrawal from stocks. At the beginning of last season the total visible supply was just over one million bales, and with an American crop of ten and three-quarter millions, which was insufficient for the consumption, stocks became further reduced and this season started with a visible supply of about 700,000 bales. Now we have, as our correspondent telegraphs, an officially estimated crop of 9,962,039 bales only, a shortage of 600,000. At the beginning of November a favourite estimate was over eleven million bales, but this was felt to be over-sanguine, and the dread was growing that the manipulators would have the market at their mercy. The *Times of India* points out that with the increased consumption which has been apparent of late years, it will take at least three years of American crops of over twelve million bales to give a stock of cotton sufficient to enable the trade to compete against the manipulations of irresponsible speculators. It is plain now that this year's crop will make the position worse, and to what extent the speculators have taken advantage of the position is shown by the wild scenes at New York and New Orleans. The article to which we have referred above points out how during the past season the position of the market attracted the attention of speculators from almost the commencement, and the manipulation of prices began early in 1903. Prices

were forced up until spot cotton in Liverpool was quoted over 7d., and, had mills continued working full time, an even higher figure would have been touched. The market was even then absolutely at the mercy of the manipulators, to the detriment of trade. The curtailment of production, with the increased acreage planted in America, caused a gradual decline in prices, and, though the crop had an indifferent start, the improved weather conditions for some months played an important part and prices gave way, until at the beginning of October arrivals were quoted in Liverpool under 5d. per lb. Since then prices had an upward tendency, news of killing frosts having effect. But now the situation of course is positively dangerous, and the maddest manipulators seem to be having ample sway. Bankruptcies and suicides will no doubt follow, have indeed probably been witnessed already. The spectacle is appalling, but it is an inevitable result of the gambling spirit, which is so condemned in the white working-man and the Chinese coolie, having full license in the stock exchanges.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 11th December.)

Hongkong still continues to talk about—and to feel—the cold. The lowest reading of the thermometer of which I have heard was 41 at a house on the Peak, the time being about 8 o'clock a.m. The lowest official return for Hongkong, lower level, seems to be 54. There appears every indication of the cold lasting, and the hope of a little more warmth which I mentioned last week seems to have faded away. We can therefore don with appreciation the clothes which, six months ago, we could not look at without perspiring. Hongkong is getting quite brilliant with waistcoats, about the only article with which man can usually make himself gay. As for the ladies—well, my pen fails me to describe how they have welcomed the wintry weather with becoming costumes. Many of the shops, too, have assumed a distinctly Christmas air, and dolls, toys, and various games attract not only childish eyes—indeed they rather “jump to the eye” with the vividness of their display. I wonder the coolie children think of them as they endeavour to press their flat little noses against the panes of glass that cut them off from the mysteries designed for some other-coloured child.

It is, I am aware, always a puzzle to contractors where to dispose of their building refuse, and if not closely watched they are very apt to place it in the first convenient spot, utterly regardless of its disfiguring appearance. The Public Works Department has, very rightly, refused permission for them to deposit on the hillside, to be washed down into the streams and to blur the landscape. In these circumstances, I cannot understand why they should continue to be allowed to make the bank of Glenaly Ravine, between the Tran Terminus and St. Joseph's Church, a vast unsightly rubbish-heap. It is a most conspicuous place, in a good neighbourhood, and the bank is already bulged out to its utmost dimensions. It is surely time that the bank should now be reduced to shape and neatly turfed over.

It is extremely interesting to dip into the records relating to the early days of Hongkong, and to make the comparison between then and now. I have just been reading again some of those interesting letters which Mr. W. E. Cooke sent to the *London Times* in the early fifties. Writing in one of them concerning the City of Victoria, he says: “The first great astonishment to a man who recollects Sir Francis Maitland's report, that there was anchorage for ships and room on the Island for one house, is to find many merchant princes living in many gorgeous palaces, a city two miles long, every article of home luxury except a bracing breeze, and fleets which could feed a principality and

conquer an Empire.” Alas and alack! Where are now those gorgeous palaces? Some archaeologist can perhaps enlighten us. And in the days of a constantly fluctuating dollar which never even rises to an exchange value of 2/-, I might even ask the question, “Where are now those merchant princes?”

I regret to say that when Mr. Cooke described the first European buildings in Hongkong as “gorgeous palaces” he permitted himself a license which he very well knew few of his readers were in a position to call in question. He also relied upon the proverbial shortness of memory of the average newspaper reader, for in a previous letter he had written that “the bungalows generally consist of three rooms about forty feet high, all opening upon a verandah, some bedrooms and a set of detached offices for Chinese.” If such were “gorgeous palaces” how should a writer describe the residences of the present day in Hongkong?

There are some respects in which the contrast between now and then is not very striking. For example, “it was by no common expenditure of time and interest that my friend obtained for me a single room at a price not much above what a lodging in Regent Street would cost in the London season.” Well, rents are still a sore subject in Hongkong, and Mr. Cooke's comparison might be allowed to stand. But in these days of a low exchange we may feel devoutly thankful that Hongkong is not “a place where a turkey and a ham cost £5.”

The spirit of St. Andrew must evidently have permeated the temperament of a Chinese of the coolie class in the vicinity of the site of the new Post Office last Wednesday evening. This locality not being well illuminated—the Praya side of Des Voeux Road at this spot indeed being almost totally devoid of any illumination—favoured the carrying out of his “little joke.” Arming himself with a large-sized brick, he lay in wait until a ricksha containing an European drew near, and then launched his missile. That he succeeded in giving the occupant a sudden shock goes without saying. Fortunately the brick only struck the intended victim on the hip, and thence rebounded into the foot of the vehicle. But the affair might easily have been fraught with more serious consequences. The assailant got clear away. Still it is somewhat astonishing that such an occurrence is possible within only a few yards of the Hongkong Hotel. Where were the police?

I have noticed some very pretty plants in the compound of Wellington Barracks. They are trimmed into the shape of men and other fantastic designs. Tourists will do well to have a look at them; they will be nothing new to those who visited the Chinese flower-show held on the Praya at Coronation time.

The untoward retardation of the almost invariably prompt English mail spoilt several shooting parties yesterday. We have grown to look on it as a matter of course that the P. & O. boat will arrive to the minute—a circumstance often overlooked by those who lament the conservatism of British steamship companies—and so feel aggrieved that rough weather can deprive us of our mail in time to get a free Sunday and a look at the birds, if we are so minded. The state of the various vessels arriving from the South during the last few days should be enough to convince anyone of the “dirtiness” of the weather.

BANYAN.

The nine Japanese boys alleged to have been kidnapped and taken to Shanghai, whom the Mixed Court there ordered to be returned to Japan, arrived at Kobe on the 25th ult. In the course of the morning, as the vessel lay at the pier, the boys were taken charge of by the Water Police, and returned to Osaka. We gave an account of this affair some days ago. It is stated that the boys were bought from the poorest families for sums ranging from three to ten yen. At Shanghai a foreign Customs officer suggested that they had been purchased to be taken to Singapore and thence sent to work in mines in some part of the Straits Settlements.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday, 7th Dec. in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

ABSENT:—

H. E. the General Officer Commanding.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

FINANCE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 60 to 65) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 11), and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

BYE-LAWS ON DOMESTIC CLEANLINESS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following amendment to No. 2 of the Bye-laws under the heading "Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation," contained in Schedule B of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, made under Sub-section 7 of Section 16 of the aforesaid Ordinance:—

The words "by a duly registered nightsoil carrier" are hereby deleted from Bye-law No. 2 of the Bye-laws under the heading "Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation" contained in Schedule B of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved its adoption.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The Director of Public Works laid on the table the following report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a Meeting held on the 19th November, 1903. Present: the Hon. the Director of Public Works (W. Chatham), Chairman; Hon. the Acting Colonial Treasurer (L. A. M. Johnston); Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G.; Hon. C. W. Dickson; and Hon. Gershom Stewart.

OFFICERS' QUARTERS, LAND OFFICE AND POLICE COURT AT TAIPO.

The Chairman explained that it was considered necessary to construct permanent buildings at Tai-po for the accommodation of the officers stationed there and for a Land Office and Police Court. The plan which he submitted showed two 2-storied buildings—one, to contain the quarters, to be erected on the small island where the landing-place is situated, and the other to contain the Land Office and Police Court, on the mainland in the vicinity of the Police Station.

The estimated cost was as follows:—

Quarters, including servants' accommodation and stable, approach path, &c., \$24,500
Land Office and Police Court, ... 32,000

Total \$56,500

It was unanimously agreed to recommend that both buildings be proceeded with.

CITY WATER WORKS EXTENSION—TYTAMTUK SCHEME.

The Chairman laid before the Committee a general plan, dated the 17th October, 1903, showing the works which it was proposed to undertake at once and which would form the

first section of the scheme. He explained that the result of the last trial-well sunk on the site of the proposed large dam had been disappointing, the rock being found at a depth of about 60 feet instead of about 40 to 45 feet as indicated by all the previous trial works. It was therefore necessary to conduct further trial works both on that site and on others in the vicinity with the view of ascertaining whether a more favourable line could be found for the dam and, as it was evident that some very considerable period must elapse before this part of the scheme could be sufficiently advanced to be available for increasing the supply of water, it was considered advisable to proceed at once with a dam of moderate dimensions and capacity some distance up the valley.

It was therefore proposed to construct a dam on the site which was referred to in Mr. Cooper's report of the 9th May, 1896, as No. 4, but to increase the size of it so as to render it capable of containing 194 million gallons instead of 100 millions as specified in his report. Two pumping engines, each capable of raising 1½ million gallons daily, had already been ordered and the proposed dam would afford a supply about sufficient to keep one engine steadily at work during the dry season. The second engine was intended as a duplicate, to be brought into service when the other was stopped for overhaul and repairs. In addition to the water impounded by the proposed dam the yield of the streams flowing in the valley would be rendered available by the small dam which had already been constructed in connection with the temporary pumping engine now at work and from which the main to the large pumping engines would be laid.

The other items required to complete the first section of the scheme included the following:—

(1). The construction of a pumping station near the head of Tytam Bay to contain the two pumping engines already mentioned.

(2). The construction of a new road contouring the lower part of the valley at an elevation of 130 to 150 feet above ordnance datum and then ascending to join the existing road near the new byewash reservoir.

(3). The laying of a suction main from the small dam mentioned above to the permanent pumping station referred to in (1).

(4). The laying of a rising main from the permanent pumping station by way of the new road to the gauge basin at the entrance to the Tytam Tunnel.

The whole of the proposed works had been designed with a view to the completion of the scheme at a later date by the construction of the large dam already mentioned with the requisite catchwaters to intercept additional drainage areas and the erection of the necessary additional pumping plant, when the suction main referred to in (3) would be taken up and laid as a duplicate rising main. The reservoir now proposed would not be overlapped by the large one to be constructed hereafter and would therefore be of permanent benefit for storage purposes.

The estimated cost of the works included in the first section was as follows:—

1. Dam to impound 194 million gallons	\$290,000
2. Construction of pumping station including formation of site	50,000
3. New road from junction with Stanley Road to near Tytam byewash reservoir (length 1.40 miles)	98,000
4. Access roads to pumping station and gauge basin and track for temporary suction main	20,000
5. Rising main, 18 in. diameter, from pumping station to Tytam gauge basin (length 2.03 miles)	98,000
6. Suction main, 18 in. diameter, to be subsequently used for duplicating rising main (length 1.25 miles)	60,000
7. Pumping machinery already ordered (two sets of engines, each capable of delivering 1½ million gallons per day) including erection	108,000
	724,000
Contingencies, say	56,000
Total	\$780,000

The works required to complete the entire Tytamuk scheme, for which it was not possible

to submit an estimate at present, would be as follows:—

1. The construction of a large dam below Tytamuk village, with the necessary road diversions.
2. An extension of the pumping station buildings.
3. The provision of additional pumping plant.
4. Taking up the 18 in. suction main and relaying same as a rising main, including the necessary length of piping to complete same.
5. The construction of catchwaters to such extent as may be found advisable in order to render available the water from areas situated outside the natural drainage area.

The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the scheme be at once proceeded with.

CONVICT PRISON ON STONECUTTERS' ISLAND.

Replies to the Committee's enquiries as to the amount which the Military Authorities would be prepared to contribute in the event of the Gunpowder Depot being removed from Stonecutters' Island as proposed, and

(a.) the proposal to erect a convict prison there being carried out,

(b.) the proposal to erect a convict prison there being abandoned,

were furnished. They were to the effect that in the case of (a), the Military Authorities would contribute nothing, and in the case of (b) they were prepared to contribute £2,500 on condition that the site and buildings on it were handed over to them. This offer had been declined by His Excellency the Governor.

The question of erecting a prison on Stonecutters' Island was then discussed, and it was ultimately agreed unanimously to recommend that the work be proceeded with as early as practicable.

The Committee then adjourned.

QUESTIONS.

The following questions stood on the agenda in the name of Hon. H. E. Pollock.

1. What was the total amount which was paid to owners for the resumption of insanitary properties in Taipingshan?

What was the total cost of laying out such named land, including roads, drains, retaining walls, etc.?

What is the total amount, which has been received by the Government in premia from the sale of such portions of such resumed land as have been sold by the Government, and what is the total Annual Crown Rent which is received by the Government in respect of such portions?

What proportion do such portions as aforesaid bear to the part of such resumption which it is proposed to reserve as a public park for Chinese?

What is the area of that part of such resumption which it is proposed to reserve as a public park for Chinese?

When does the Government propose to give the members of the Legislative Council an opportunity for discussing the question of the desirability of reserving such part of such resumption as a public park for Chinese? What stage has this matter of a public park for Chinese now reached?

2. On what date was the contract let for the foundations and reclamation for Section No. 6 of the Praya Reclamation (from Pottinger Street to Wing Wo Street), and what was the date fixed for the completion of the work? What is the name of the contractor?

When was the above contract work actually completed, and how many days was it after the contract time for completion? Was the penalty for overtime stipulated in the contract enforced? If not, why not?

On what date was the contract let for the sea-wall and roadways on the above section and what date was fixed for the completion of the work?

What is the name of the contractor?

When will the work on:—

(a.) the sea wall, and

(b.) the roadways be actually completed?

Is the penalty for overtime in the contract being enforced or will it be enforced? If not, why not?

3. Is it not the fact that a wall in the Protestant Cemetery, on the side nearest to the Roman Catholic Cemetery, has recently partially collapsed, covering some of the tombs in the Protestant Cemetery with debris and damaging some of the tombstones?

What steps will be taken and when to remove such debris and to repair such damage and to ensure that no further portions of the said wall and no earth shall in future fall down or be washed down by rain upon the tombs in the Protestant Cemetery?

What is the name of the contractor who is responsible for the wall in question?

4. Is it not the fact that certain houses in Conduit Road have been served with an intermittent supply of water only during some days in the past summer?

If yes, to what cause is such deficiency of water due?

Are there any defects in the mains leading up to Conduit Road or is the pumping-power insufficient to raise the water up to that level? Is a Water Rate being collected from the houses in Conduit Road?

5. Is it the fact that the Government is contemplating the alteration of the uniform which is worn by the Senior Sanitary Inspectors? If so, will not such contemplated alteration make the uniform of the Senior Sanitary Inspectors resemble that of the District Inspectors? What is the reason for the contemplated change?

In the absence of Hon. Mr. Pollock,

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER put the questions.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY answered question 1 as follows:—\$818,098.32, \$107,874.58.

The premia amount to \$171,393.50; the Crown rents to \$772 per annum. The area sold amounts to 49,711 square feet or 1.14 acres; the reas of building land absorbed by the park which is a Public Park and not a Park for Chinese only amount to 46,500 square feet or 1.07 acres. On the 17th of September the Governor's despatch and the Secretary of State's reply on the subject of laying out a Public Garden in Taipingshan were laid on the table, together with the Estimates for 1904, at page 25 of which a sum of \$7,000 was set down for levelling and laying out Taipingshan Garden. I have again to point out that the Park or Garden is Public and not set aside exclusively for any section of the community.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS gave the following answers:—

Question 2, paragraph 1. The 1st of May, 1899. Date for completion 15th of November, 1902. Name of Contractor, Tsang Keng.

2. It is not yet completed.

3. The whole of the work was included under the contract referred to in first paragraph of reply.

4. Tsang Keng, as already stated.

5. (a) Work was completed in December 1902.

(b) It is not possible to say definitely, but there is no reason why it should not be completed by the end of this year.

6. The question of penalty to be enforced will be considered on completion of the work. The contractor has been repeatedly warned that the penalty will be enforced.

Question 3, paragraph 1. Yes. The accident arose from the heavy rains in the early part of September.

2. The wall will be reconstructed of greater strength. Work is in progress.

3. The wall which fell was constructed by Yau Kung Cheung, contractor. It was completed in September 1902, and was therefore out of the contractor's hands prior to the date of its failure.

Question 4, paragraph 1. Yes.

2. It has been due in some measure to repeated bursts in the mains, the margin in power of the pumping plant being inadequate to make up for the loss of water occasioned by such bursts. Additional pumping plant has recently been provided which has enabled constant supply to be maintained.

3. No defects other than those indicated above, which are liable to occur in any main. Yes, a water rate is collected.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY answered question 5 as follows:—The uniform of the Sanitary Staff for which there existed no authorised pattern has been revised, and sealed patterns sanctioned. The uniform for the different grades of Inspectors is alike. The object has been to make the uniform as simple as possible.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART gave notice that at next meeting he would make the following motion:—“That in the opinion of this Council it is advisable to increase if possible the means

of shelter for cargo boats and sampans during the typhoon season.”

LAND TITLES IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal the New Territories Titles Ordinance, 1902. He said—As has been indicated in the objects and reasons appended, this Ordinance is desired because it is found necessary to repeal the New Territories Titles Ordinance which was passed last year. The object of that Ordinance was to establish in the New Territories a system to be confined to the New Territories by registry. The system has however in practice been found to be not workable, and moreover it has been found that even if the system was brought into working order it would clash with the principle of the Land Court Ordinance of 1900 in such a manner as was neither contemplated by the framers or the Legislature when the Ordinance was passed. The interpretations “customary land” and “customary land-holder” in the New Territories Land Titles Ordinance was interpreted in such a way that its effect would seem to be to override Section 14 of the Land Court Ordinance of 1900. By that Ordinance all titles in the New Territories as in every part of the Colony can only be acquired by a grant from the Crown. It is not permissible of course that that principle should be in any way departed from. Happily no inconvenience will be caused to anyone because as a fact the Ordinance was never brought into working, for on the first attempt it was found they could not do so.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then considered in Committee and was read a third time and passed on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

NEW TERRITORY LAND COURT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend The New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1900. He said—The object of the introduction of this Bill is to empower the Governor to act with the members of the Land Court whenever he may deem it expedient with the object of expediting and accelerating the work of the Court.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then considered in Committee and was afterwards read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903. He said—As we are all aware, the Ordinance known as No. 1 of 1903, the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, was passed late last year and came into operation in the early part of this year. That Bill dealt with the vital question of the public health of this Colony. It ran into very great—but not unnecessarily great—length, considering the varied nature and importance of the matters with which the Bill dealt. It is somewhat early, perhaps some may think, to amend the Bill, but I think hon. members will readily acknowledge that it was almost impossible to expect that a Bill could be framed which would meet with every requirement and necessity without requiring some amendment almost immediately following its inception. The Ordinance, which I beg leave to say is a most valuable addition to the statute book, does require amendment in some particulars in order to make it of more practical value. The amendments which are now proposed by the Government are principally those which have been suggested and recommended by the Sanitary Board, who have hitherto had the practical working of the Ordinance under their immediate ken. These suggestions and recommendations appear to me to be admirable in every respect and I believe will commend themselves to the favourable consideration of this Council. Other amendments which we propose in the Bill are suggested not by the Sanitary Board but by others who have had the working of the Bill under their charge and are responsible for it. In these amendments it is proposed to create a Sanitary Department. A Sanitary Department does exist, but it is now proposed to recognise it by statute and give the

Principal Civil Medical Officer of the Colony the direct administration of that department by holding him directly responsible. At the present time it is not possible to hold that officer directly responsible because he has no authority where he should have it. An amendment is also proposed with respect to the arbitration clause by which power is given to the arbiters to take into consideration when dealing with claims whether the premises were enhanced in value by overcrowding. The greatest difficulty the Government have had in preparing this Bill for presentation to the Council is to get a definition of the expression “external air” which would be capable of being given effect to. The amendment of the present existing definition is made on the recommendation of the Sanitary Board. They report that at present the definition renders it almost impossible to give effect to the real intention of the Ordinance with respect to the proper amount of light and air that should be admitted into rooms. A new definition therefore will be submitted for the consideration of the Council which I believe will be found to at last achieve the difficulty of exactly saying what was meant by “external air.” Several other sections have been amended. For instance section 48 is considered by the Board to be unworkable. It accordingly has been recast and I believe it will meet the Board's recommendation. The object that the Board has in view in making that recommendation was to expedite the action that was necessary to be taken with reference to the abatement of the nuisance of overcrowding. The present system appears to be cumbrous and to cause undue delay. Considerable difficulty has been found in practice in working the Ordinance with respect to the interpretation that at present is attached to the meaning of the words “room” and “cubicle.” Hitherto those words have had pretty well the same meaning, but by the amendment proposed to the Bill each would have its own meaning attached to it. A very important alteration too was to be submitted for consideration with respect to Section 251 of the present Ordinance. This section is one of the arbitration sections and refers to the procedure to be adopted where claims for compensation have been put in. The amending Bill will provide that whenever claims for compensation shall be made the claim shall be submitted to the Colonial Secretary on the same day as the plans are filed with the building authority; also it provides that where a claim for compensation is in respect of a matter with regard to which powers of exemption or modification are vested in the Board or the Governor in Council the claimant shall await the decision of the Board or the Governor in Council before proceeding with the works. These amendments have been found necessary by the authority who have the administration of the Ordinance, for claims for compensation have been sent in months after the plans have been deposited, there being no indication at the time they were sent in that a claim was intended to be made, and subsequently when it was intended to exercise the powers of modification made it was found it was too late because the building was already in course of erection. The Council will see at once that these are practical difficulties that ought to be overcome, and this Bill we think is capable of doing so.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded. He said—I may mention on His Excellency's authority that it is not proposed to press Section 3 but to hold it over for further consideration; and therefore the Government hopes that the unofficial members will not oppose the second reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Council went into Committee on the Bill.

In Committee some amendments were made and discussion ensued on several points.

Section 2 as printed was passed.

In Section 14 (Sub-section 8) the term “fourteen days” was changed to “five days” so as to lessen the period within which a summons against overcrowding can be applied for to a Magistrate.

In Section 19 (Sub-section 153) (a) it was provided that no cubicle shall be constructed or maintained in any storey of any domestic building hereafter erected “or re-erected.”

Hon. Dr. Ho KAI said that if this applied to houses which had been blown down or taken down for repair to a certain extent and re-

constructed then there would be a hardship if no cubicles were to be allowed.

HIS EXCELLENCY—In that case we would never get rid of cubicles at all.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai replied that by increasing the thickness of the walls and providing a 13 feet backyard for external air a 60 feet room would have only two rooms. What about the central portion of a house fronting the street and opening upon the external air in the rear. They could not have side windows, nor central rooms, yet cubicles must exist in such houses. At the present time two cubicles could exist but in a new house or one being re-erected it would be impossible to have any cubicles at all. There would be one room from one end to the other.

The **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** pointed out that the provisions of the Ordinance entailed a very important modification of the arrangements of existing houses, because they only permitted kitchens to be erected over half of the extent of the house, and quarter of the entire area must be left unbuilt upon. Therefore an important modification would be made in the reconstruction of such houses if once demolished. If the city as it existed to-day was ever to be improved there must be some provision like this which would prevent these houses having windowless cubicles. Otherwise the city would remain forever as it now was.

HIS EXCELLENCY remarked that Section 153 really covered, or was intended to cover, houses burned down or pulled down and built up again; otherwise you would go on building up the same old insanitary class of houses. The words the hon. member had objected to were put in because the question arose whether the section covered re-erected houses. He thought that what the Director of Public Works had pointed out was only reasonable.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai asked the Director of Public Works to give the Committee an idea, if private houses such as business hongs in Bonham Strand, some measuring 80 feet, had been pulled down or burned down, whether it would be possible to rebuild them and have cubicles?

The **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** thought that was sufficiently covered by the proviso to the section. Powers of modification as wide as they could make them were given to deal with all cases that occurred. He should think the Board would exercise its powers of modification in such cases as had been indicated.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—I am quite satisfied.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think the hon. member may rest assured that where a strict enforcement of the Section would inflict unnecessary hardship in purely business premises modification will be granted.

The Sub-section was passed.

In Section 154 (5) under Part III (I9) it was proposed that no cubicle shall have a less floor area than 64 square feet.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai held that it should be made either 50 feet or 100 feet, as 64 feet was too much for one and not enough for two.

The **ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** pointed out that there was nothing to prevent it being made 100 feet.

The **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** considered that the 64 feet should stand. Each person, in the case of a floor which was not subdivided, required 50 feet, and if a room was going to be divided up into cubicles he thought it only reasonable that they should provide extra space.

HIS EXCELLENCY asked the Director of Public Works whether in calculating the number of people that could occupy a floor divided up into cubicles, calculation would be made for the floor as a whole and not for each separate cubicle.

The **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** replied that he had no recollection of that question having arisen.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai remarked that if two or three persons were found occupying the same cubicle the Sanitary Board would have something to say about overcrowding.

The **ATTORNEY-GENERAL** was of opinion that if two men lay in that room and chose to lie alongside each other they would still be inside the rules.

HIS EXCELLENCY—This 64 feet requirement is based on "old custom." If it is disturbed a size of cubicle that may not be so convenient may be the result.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai did not press his point but remarked that there was a great difference between two or three persons crowding together into a partially closed-up cubicle and lying together in the corner of an open room.

The section was passed without alteration.

All the other new sections which were considered were approved.

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

The **ATTORNEY-GENERAL** moved that the house go into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the Recovery of Charges incurred by the Colony on account of certain undesirable persons introduced into the Colony.

Hon. Sir PAUL CHATER asked that consideration of the Bill be postponed as the member for the Chamber of Commerce, he understood, had been asked to make a few comments upon it when he returned from the North. This was agreed to.

The Council adjourned till Monday, 14th December.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the Acting Colonial Secretary (**Hon. A. M. Thomson**) presiding.

POST OFFICE EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$28,750 in aid of the vote Post Office, under Other Charges, for the following items:—

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| (1) Cost of Stamps | \$ 8,000 |
| (2) Contribution to Mail Subsidy | 5,250 |
| (3) Transit Charges | 15,500 |

Total... \$28,750

The **CHAIRMAN** said that new stamps had cost a great deal more than had been anticipated. The subsidy had risen owing to the low exchange in the early part of the year. Transit charges were also larger partly owing to that fact and partly to the increase in business.

The vote was agreed to.

PRINTING THE ORDINANCE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,000 in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services. Printing, as a first instalment of the cost of the revised edition of Ordinances.

The **CHAIRMAN** stated that a certain amount of the work had been done by the Government printers and they had asked for an advance on the contract.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai asked when the work was likely to be ready.

The **CHAIRMAN** replied that he could not guarantee a time.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—It is only up to 1900?

The **CHAIRMAN**—1901.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—By the time it is ready we will want a new edition.

The vote was passed.

LAND REGISTRY VOTE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$955 in aid of the vote Land Registry Office for the following:—

<i>For New Territories.—Personal Emoluments.</i>	
Assistant Land Officer, 11th November to 31st December	\$500
Assistant Land Officer, Exchange Compensation	400
	\$900

Other Charges.

Travelling Allowance to Assistant Land Officer	50
Total	\$950

The **CHAIRMAN** stated that this vote was rendered necessary by the appointment of Mr. Messer as Assistant Land Officer on 11th November.

Approved.

POLICE LAUNCHES AND BOATS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,300 in aid of the vote Police under Other Charges for the item repairs of launches and boats.

The vote was passed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of

\$85,600 in aid of the votes Public Works Annually Recurrent, and Public Works Extraordinary, for the following items:—

Public Works, Annually Recurrent.

Maintenance of buildings	\$8,300
Maintenance of telegraphs	2,700
Maintenance of telegraphs in New Territory	600
Miscellaneous works	13,500
Maintenance of roads in City	5,500
Maintenance of roads outside City	2,000
Maintenance of roads in Kowloon	2,100
Maintenance of sewers, nullahs, &c.	1,500
Miscellaneous Services	2,000
Gas lighting, City of Victoria	2,200
Extensions of gas lighting	300
Drainage works, miscellaneous	18,700
Maintenance of water-works, City and Hill District	13,500
	72,900

Public Work, Extraordinary.

Public bath-house, Cross Lane, Wanchai	500
Public latrines and urinals	3,500
Rain-storm damage	8,700
	12,700

Total... \$85,600

The **CHAIRMAN** said that he understood the original total estimate in this case for last year would not be exceeded.

The **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** explained that on the annually recurrent and extraordinary expenditure there would be a very large balance of about \$250,000 on the gross amount. Public works recurrent would be exceeded to the extent of some \$56,000 and there would be a saving on public works extraordinary or unexpended balances of about \$300,000. With regard to the public works annually recurrent the principal items in which the expenditure was incurred were those that were really not of the ordinary recurrent type; miscellaneous works, for example, for the provision of structures of various sorts that there was almost a certain demand for during the course of any year, but for which there were no separate votes. It was the same way with drainage works miscellaneous, it appeared in public works recurrent but it consisted largely in training of nullahs and extending of drains in various parts of the city and Kowloon on account of the new areas built upon during recent years. A large part of it was due to training of nullahs which he thought hon. members would agree was a very desirable work to carry on. In the case of the maintenance of waterworks, this was due a good deal to the increased cost of pumping, including that at Tytamuk.

The vote was passed.

SECRET SERVICE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,000 in aid of the vote Police under Other Charges, for the item, Secret Service.

The **CHAIRMAN** said this was on account of a special case. It was obvious that no further explanation could be given.

The vote was approved.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at 12.30 p.m. yesterday to consider what steps would be taken in connection with the outbreak of rinderpest among the cattle at Kennedy's Dairy. Present:—**Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson**, Principal Civil Medical Officer (president); Colonel W. E. Webb, **Hon. A. W. Brewin**, Mr. A. Ramjahn, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, Secretary.

Dr. Atkinson said that he thought it necessary to call a special meeting as he had received a report from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon that seven more cattle had died of the disease at Kennedy's Stables, making eight deaths in all. There was no doubt, he said, that the disease was highly infectious, and probably the whole of the herd would become infected. The herd numbered fifty-five, eight of which had died, forty-two are at present sick, leaving five of the herd still uninfected. Taking into consideration the fact that the Dairy is also a stabler, with a large number of people continually coming and going, the risk of infection, thought the President, was very great. Under the Sanitary

bye-laws the Board had power to order the slaughtering of all the animals in the herd, if they thought it necessary to do so to check the disease, and in the event of their so doing compensation could be awarded to the owners of the herd, but the compensation awarded must not exceed \$100.

Dr. Gibson—The loss would be considerably more than \$100! The average price of these cows is £22, or I should say \$250. The shed is quite close to the stables, and men are passing the place frequently.

Col. Webb—Can the disease be communicated to horses?

Dr. Gibson—I rather think not.

Dr. Atkinson—It is possible that it might be.

Dr. Gibson—I am not in a position to say positively yes or no, but the infection could be carried by them.

Col. Webb—And by their attendants?

Dr. Gibson—By anyone about them.

Dr. Atkinson—I suppose there are no means of ascertaining how the disease was introduced.

Dr. Gibson—I had an idea that the food supply might be the cause, but all the food, with the exception of bran, is imported. Bran comes from Shanghai, and that is cooked.

Col. Webb—In a day or two the Chinese pony griffins will be coming down, and then all the stables will be filled up.

The President moved that, as the Board had power to order the slaughtering of the cattle forthwith, the remaining cattle in the herd should be killed immediately, and their bodies taken out to sea in junks and dumped. Mr. Rumjahn seconded, and the motion was carried. In connection with the disposal of the bodies a discussion arose, in which cremation was suggested, but when it was pointed out that only four animals could be cremated in a day the matter was left to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to deal with.

This was all the business.

NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN HONGKONG.

Included in the *Simla's* passengers was Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B., the new General Commanding the Forces in South China and Hongkong, Mrs Villiers Hatton, and Lieut. Ward, A.D.C.

The Major-General requested that there be no official welcome; he landed in mufti. Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., Acting Commander in-Chief, Major Chichester, D.S.O., D.A.A.G., Major W. Baker Brown, R.E., Acting A.D.C., Captain E. C. L. FitzWilliams, A.S.C., Mrs Baker-Brown, and Mrs Chichester went on board the steamer to meet him. Both Major-General and Mrs Hatton looked the picture of health. The Major-General commanded the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards in the Kharloun expedition of 1898. His father, the late Colonel Villiers La Touche Hatton, was a Lieut.-Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. He is also a nephew of Sir Henry de Bathe.

The party landed by the launch *Alexandra* at Blake Pier; upon landing Major-General and Mrs. Hatton were taken in chairs to Headquarters House. A salute was fired from the *Tamar* when the Major-General stepped ashore. His Excellency relieved Colonel Brown on Monday.

ROUGH WEATHER OUTSIDE.

VOYAGE OF THE P. & O. "SIMLA."

The English mail arrived at ten o'clock on Monday morning. Great anxiety was experienced in the Colony regarding her; in fact there was some talk of sending a cruiser out. After all, though, these fears were foolish: when the *Simla* arrived this morning she was not overdue. By the mail schedule it would appear that she was due on the 6th (Sunday), merchants expected her on Saturday, but by contract she is allowed two days extra between Singapore and Shanghai during this monsoon weather. She left Singapore on Sunday the 29th ult., running into the thick of nasty weather, the strong N.E. monsoon with heavy sea, as soon as she cleared harbour. The ship behaved splendidly in the rough sea: one after another of the big waves coming from the

same direction as the wind—dead ahead—were safely ridden. A passenger, was yesterday overheard to remark "the *Simla* is a beautiful sea-boat; although she pitched heavily, riding up one sea after another, she did not roll a bit. The screw, of course, raced like fury." No ship could make a record against such weather; the *Simla*, indeed, was reduced to nearly half her usual speed. One day the 24 hours' run was only 125 miles; other runs were 150, 149, 155, 185. Heavy seas washed over the fore-castle-head and well decks; some, also, came on to the hurricane deck. Derrick gibs and other spars were smashed in the forward part of the vessel; one of the side ladders leading from the forward well to the hurricane deck was broken. Needless to say, many passengers suffered on account of the weather; so, also, did the officers, endeavouring to keep a look-out on the bridge, while showers of spray were dashed into their eyes. In the engine-room, perhaps, more anxiety than anywhere else was experienced. The screw, suddenly lifted from the water, flew around at a terrific speed. During the voyage, it was necessary to use fiddles, to prevent crockery, etc., falling from saloon tables, almost all the time. The cooks, looking after big pots of boiling water, had an exceptionally bad time. One steward met with an accident, getting a fractured rib. The *Simla* proceeded to Shanghai on Monday evening; to save her fine she has to reach port by Friday.

CARGO SHIFTS ON THE "GLEN GARRY."

Captain H. M. Willy, R.N.R., brought his steamer, the *Glen Garry*, alongside at the Kowloon wharf on Monday morning. He reports having experienced, on his passage from Singapore to Hongkong, strong N.E. monsoon with high head seas washing over the ship. The vessel laboured heavily, at times rolling her bulwarks under. Violent squalls with blinding rain made things generally "pleasant." The sky being completely over-cast, it was impossible to take observations. Excepting during the rain-showers, it was clear ahead. Owing to the motion of the ship, the passengers were all more or less unwell. Adding to the general discomfort, a portion of the cargo (iron) shifted—a very dangerous thing indeed—and required constant attention till the vessel arrived at Hongkong. Dashing from side to side at every roll the iron made a fearful noise; in attempting to secure it the ship had to be put several points off her course. One of the crew, while endeavouring to be of assistance to the carpenter in securing some of the movables, was knocked down by a sea, getting his head cut open. Dr. Johnson, the ship's surgeon, had to put several stitches in the wound. Two other sailors met with similar accidents. Adding to all these misfortunes, the chief officer, Mr. D. R. Clarke, having a bad foot, was unable to assist. The engines had to be eased at times on account of fearful racing. Captain Willy had little sleep during the trip.

A SHIPPING SCANDAL.

SHOCKING CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

The hardships put upon sheep and goats taken on board at Shanghai by some of the vessels on the Shanghai-Canton run, via Hongkong, are a shocking, almost incredible scandal. Perhaps some of the steamship owners, or their agents, as the case may be, have never given the matter a thought; perhaps, indeed, they have never boarded the vessel after the animals have been shipped. Perhaps marine superintendents, fearing it might damage their position, never drew attention to a matter which would mean a severe loss in freight. Perhaps the captain and officers of the ships dared not protest; seldom, but sometimes, "men of the Merchant Service" sacrifice their position for uttering righteous opinions detrimental to their employers' interests. Perhaps the compradores in charge of the cargoes think little about cruelty to animals, yet a great deal about their commission. Such, certainly, must be the case: In these circumstances, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as well as all right-thinking men in this Colony who have so strongly protested against the Canton atrocities—unnecessary torture of the condemned—have a right to protest.

A visit to one of the steamers lying alongside a wharf at Praya West was enough to raise the indignation of anyone. Huddled up in roughly constructed pens, bounded on one side by two long bamboos eighteen inches or so apart, lashed athwart the stanchions supporting the bulwarks—this made a feeding-trough—and bounded on the other sides by planks, the animals were a picture of misery. So close were they packed that, in the sea of filth besmear'd wool—there was no bedding, and the pens had never been cleaned—it was simply impossible to count the beasts. Some of them had their heads protruding between the planks of the enclosure; so tightly were they pressed that they were unable to extricate themselves. Many had their heads jammed under the bellies of others. Hundred of animals were so tightly packed that it would have been impossible for all of them to lie down. There is a whisper that recent arrivals from Shanghai have lost large quantities of sheep on the voyage; one, indeed, had a mortality of about 30 per cent. When one of the vessels was moored alongside at Hongkong, not a vestige of food was to be seen near the pens; as for water, it seemed inconceivable how the animals were supplied. A goat was gnawing the side of a pen; a sheep greedily devoured a little rice accidentally dropped within head-reach. Cattle sometimes undergo a short fast previous to slaughter; this, however, is an unnecessary hardship for sheep and goats. From a sanitary point of view, moreover, it is questionable whether this fearful strain put upon these sheep is conducive to improving the meat.

We are glad to find that the Hongkong S. P. C. A. is not remaining idle in the matter of the shameful treatment of sheep and goats brought down to Canton via Hongkong in certain steamers from Shanghai.

THE MEAT SUPPLY OF HONGKONG.

THE KENNEDY TOWN SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

Like Chicago's, Hongkong's chief daily slaughter is of pigs. If, indeed, we do not kill off the vast quantities that Chicago does, and if we do not kill them quite so fast, we certainly do it in a very scientific manner. Probably, also, our smaller stock is more closely examined from a sanitary point of view. There are two slaughter-houses attached to the Colony: one at Hunghom, Kowloon Peninsula, and the other at Kennedy Town. As that at Hunghom is comparatively insignificant, we will deal with the one at Kennedy Town. Kennedy Town, by the way, is one terminus of our electric tramways. The slaughter-house is approached from the east by a square patch of ground where a number of cattle, for exportation, spend their time chewing rice-straw; Messrs. Shevan, Tomes & Co.'s rope works, only separated from it by a private roadway—Forbes Street—where cattle for exportation are kept when there is no room for them in the sheds, forms the northern boundary; "country" and hillside encircle the rest. Approaching the premises by the main roadway, cattle-sheds are on the left; slaughter-houses, sheep and pig-houses on the right; and a crematorium—quite a little house in itself—faces you. The slaughter-house is supervised by two European inspectors: Inspectors A. Watson, and J. T. Cotton; one of them is provided with free quarters not a great distance from the slaughter-house; both have been connected with the work about seven or eight years. In 1902, 20,831 cattle were slaughtered, 17,718 were re-exported; 16,109 sheep were slaughtered, 12,427 were re-exported; 168,940 pigs were slaughtered, 15,984 were re-exported.

THE CATTLE.

The cattle mostly come from fertile banks of the Canton and West rivers, lying in the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. A few, also, come from British Kowloon, otherwise known as the New Territory. The latter, however, are not very numerous; they are, moreover, poor specimens as compared with the further inland breed. Cattle intended for local meat supply are housed free of charge; they have to be fed by their owners. Cattle transhipped at Hongkong, on to Manila-bound or other steamers, have to pass through the depot where they undergo

an examination. A depot tax of 50 cents per head on re-export cattle is levied. Beautiful airy accommodation—the Inspectors boast that they have never seen anything in England to equal it—is provided for the beasts. There are no unpleasant odours in the sheds; they are cleaned out twice a day. In the centre is a brick water-tank, always running. The water is not taken from the Hongkong community supply; it is taken from a private reservoir at Pokfulam. There are separate pipes laid down from another reservoir for the inspectors' private use. New sheds are being erected to meet the increased demand for housing cattle. There is accommodation for a couple of thousand head. Some distance away is an isolation shed. A cattle infirmary, also, is one of the features. There is no disease on the slaughter-house premises at the present time. Cattle are very often fed there for from seven to ten days before slaughtered; sometimes they are killed off immediately after being found fit. On cattle arriving at the depot, they are examined by C.V.S. and, if found in good condition, stamped with his chop they are subsequently, shortly before slaughter, examined by one of the inspectors and marked with the broad arrow. Cattle re-exported are mostly shipped to Manila by the China & Manila steamers *Rubi* and *Zafiro*, and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's *Rosetta-maru* and *Bohilla-maru*. Regarding the local supply, the cattle-dealer sells daily to the butchers; the "condemned" cattle are then driven to an enclosure adjoining the cattle slaughter-room. They are poleaxed, etc., at night time. Buffaloes, having very hard skulls, are shot. The cattle slaughter-room is provided with over-head hook trollies leading from the slaughter room to the cooling chamber the unprogressive Chinese, however, prefers his old-fashioned bamboo to this labour-saving apparatus—it is left unused. Every joint of meat is marked with the Government chop before it leaves the premises. A heavy fine would be levied upon a man offering for sale meat not so marked. Cattle weighing from 5 to 600 lbs fetch about \$40 to \$45 apiece: about an average of 60 are killed per day.

SHEEP, GOATS AND SWINE.

Sheep and goats are brought down from Shanghai in large shipments; pigs come in great quantities from Pakhoi and Hoihow. Many die on the voyage during heavy weather. One instance in which a whole shipment of swine died is memorable. There is berthing accommodation for from 4 to 5,000 sheep, and 10,000 pigs at the depot. The pigs are imported by pork-dealers who keep salesmen in the slaughter-house to sell to butchers of the different markets. When sold, the pigs are brought to the slaughter-house, where they remain till midnight, when they are again inspected before having their throats cut. Afterwards, they are scalded, scraped, and dressed. Each market has a separate door leading into the slaughtering room; the slaughtering is done by Government contractors. There is a scarcity of pork just now, some of the dealers having had a bad season and gone out of business. On an average the pigs weigh from 100 to 140 lbs; some of them are so fat that they have to be carried to the slaughterhouse. A sheep, weighing from 70 to 80 lbs, would fetch about \$12; pork is sold by the catty. About 45 sheep and 460 pigs are killed per day.

Beef and mutton, of course, are the chief meat supply for Europeans; goat's flesh—about 100 goats a week—is used by the native regiments; pork is mainly used by Chinese.

NEW HARBOUR OFFICE.

A new Harbour Office for Hongkong is now in course of construction. It will be remembered that Sir William Meigh Goodman, our Chief Justice, when welcoming Sir Henry Spencer Berkeley, the new Attorney-General, on his first appearance at the Hongkong Supreme Court, urged him to use all influence possible in hastening work in connection with the new Law Courts. For similar reasons as those expressed by Sir William Goodman in relation to the new Courts, speed in constructing the new Harbour Office should be called for. The new building, situated on the water-front a little to the east of the Canton

steamer wharf, is well under way; foundations have been laid and walls commenced. It is to be a three-storey building covering much the same ground as the present Harbour Office in Des Vœux Road does. The old building, by the way, will soon have its harbour view shut off by new houses. For that reason alone, one would think that a shift of quarters to the reclamation would be necessary. A watch-tower and flag-staff will adorn the N.W. corner of the new harbour office; the building is to be of brick and granite. On the ground floor, emigrants will be examined, under the Emigrant Ordinance. The examination of emigrants is not conducted from a health point of view, but to see that the men are leaving the Colony as free men, and not, to use their own language, "being exported as pigs." There will also be a boarding officers' room, a boat-house, the Import and Export Office, the Junk Office, and Marine Surveyors' Office. On the first floor will be situated the Harbour Master's office, in the N.W. corner; next to this comes the Assistant Harbour Master's office; while, in the N.E. corner, is to be the Board of Trade examination room. The back part of the first floor will be utilised as the Entrance and Clearance Office and Correspondence Room, and the Marine Court Room. Quarters for married boatmen, and for the constable, will also be on the first floor. Fire-proof record rooms are to be put on the ground and first floors. The senior boarding officer will have quarters, with a private entrance, on the second floor. Our new Harbour Office will be more spacious than the present two-story affair. It is a much needed improvement.

THE CHARITY BAZAAR.

In the City Hall on the 9th inst. was held a bazaar in aid of Chinese orphans now being supported and educated under the auspices of the *Asile de la Sainte Enfance*. The bazaar was informally opened at 2 p.m. when the girls of the *Asile* paraded round the room in which the work, all of which was done by themselves, was about to be sold. By 3 p.m. the spacious room upstairs in which the bazaar was held was crowded, and a brisk sale of the dainty goods offered immediately commenced. Shortly after 3 p.m. Mrs. May, under whose patronage the bazaar was held, arrived, accompanied by Mr. Ponsonby, Private Secretary to H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, who was himself unavoidably prevented from being present. The work displayed was of excellent merit, and reflected the greatest credit both on the workers themselves, and their teachers, the Sisters of the *Asile*. A large number of Chinese ladies were present, and freely patronised the stalls, all of which were most tastefully arranged by the stall-holders themselves. The following were among the stall-holders: (1) Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Birdwood, and Miss Denton; (2) Mrs. Wyly, Miss Wyly, and Miss Berkeley; (3) Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Leigh; (4) Mrs. Danby, Miss Danby, and Miss Hunter; (5) Mrs. Goetz, Mrs. Siebs, and Miss Siebs; (6) Mrs. Von de Heyde, Mrs. FitzWilliams, and Mrs. Drew; (7) Mrs. Maitland and Mrs. Gordon; (8) Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Tomas, and Mrs. Saunders; (9) Mrs. Harker, Miss Harker, Madame Marty, Mrs. Berindogae, Signora Volpicelli, Mrs. Ehmer, and Mrs. Midhart; (10) Mrs. Hall Wright, Mrs. Douglas, Mrs. White, Mrs. More, and Mrs. Masters; (11) Mrs. Grimbale, Mrs. Preston, and Mrs. Bateso; (12) Mrs. Laing, Mrs. Atkinson, and Miss Blair; (13) Mrs. Hawkesley, Mrs. Stedman, and Miss Goodman, refreshments; (14) Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Wetherstone, Miss Rodger, Mrs. Seth, and Miss Seth, toys; (15) Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Droze, and Miss de Champeaux. A bevy of charming little girls were selling trays of sweets and buttonholes and were making lots of money for the orphans. They were the Misses May (2), Gerty Jones, Mary Lockhart, Hettie Jones, and Eileen Lambkin.

During the afternoon, by kind permission of Major Colville and officers, the band of the 114th Mahrattas played an excellent selection of music, under the leadership of J. Francois, bandmaster. The bazaar was altogether, an unqualified success.

THE MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

The lighthouse tender *Stanley* steamed to Blake Pier yesterday afternoon and took on board, at two o'clock, the Peak and Victoria branch of the Ministering Children's League. H.E. and Mrs. May, a number of ladies, and some 70 children made up the party. All on board, the *Stanley* cast off her moorings and steamed over to Kowloon Police Pier. The Kowloon branch of the League, consisting of Mrs. Birdwood and some two dozen children, were waiting for her. Again under way, a course was steered for Matakok. On landing, the party went to the mission school, kept by Miss Bishop and another lady, for girls picked up from the street. Miss Bishop took them around the school; in the school-room the Chinese girls sang "God Save the King," afterwards entertaining the company with a performance of musical drill. His Excellency made a speech in presenting the school with \$50 of the League's funds. Afterwards the League went to the school for blind children, situated some 15 minutes walk distant. Here they saw the blind girls knitting and reading by fingering specially prepared books; some of the girls were writing with instruments not unlike awls. The visitors were also shown knitting work done by the inmates, who, by the way, sang a song in Chinese. After bidding good-bye, the League returned in the *Stanley* over the same course as they had come.

The Ministering Children's League, it will be remembered, netted over \$1,000 proceeds from the recent sale of members' contributions, held at the Volunteer Parade Ground. The money is all being used for charitable purposes.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the active membership of the European Department was held on Wednesday evening at the Hongkong Christian Union Rooms, Beaconsfield Arcade, under the presidency of H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., for the purpose of completing the organisation.

The constitution proposed—the metropolitan form, providing for various distinct departments—European, Chinese, &c., under one board of directors, was adopted.

The following strong committee of management was appointed to work out the details of the European department, viz., Messrs. J. H. W. Armstrong, J. Dyer Ball, H. D. Bell, A. S. D. Cousland, P. H. Holyoak, H. Hursthouse, A. J. Mackie, R. S. Piercy, W. A. Sims, H. W. Slade, S. T. Wenborn, G. E. Woodward, and W. J. Wright. At a subsequent meeting this committee elected its officers, as follows: Chairman, Mr. J. Dyer Ball; Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Treasurer, Mr. H. W. Slade; and Recording Secretary, Mr. H. D. Bell.

The following gentlemen comprise the Board of Directors of the Association in general, having been elected at a previous meeting:—H.E. Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (President), Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. H. W. Slade, Major Benson, A.P.D., Messrs. P. H. Holyoak, W. J. Anstey, R.N., Ho U Ming, A. Ah Wee and W. J. Southam (General Secretary).

It is expected that the fine commodious rooms of the Association, in the new Alexandra Building, at the juncture of Des Vœux and Chater Roads, will be ready for occupation on the 1st March, and it is needless to say, that those interested in the organisation rejoice in the excellent promise there is of its complete success.

A large number of native artisans, engaged here by Russian agents last year and the year before last to work in Port Arthur, have returned to Shanghai from that place, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, and report that they had been ordered to leave the port owing to the near approach of hostilities between China, assisted by Japan, and Russia. The Russians in Port Arthur, the refugees report further, talk freely now of fighting China and Japan together, whereas formerly it was only war with Japan.

MASONIC INSTALLATION.

On Saturday night Brother Hyett was installed as Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge Naval and Military (848 S.C.). A most enjoyable function was held. The programme was follows:—

was follows:—	
Introduction.....	Orchestra
Song..... "Leave a little bit for your tutor"	C. Beaumont
Song..... "While I am with you".....	A. Jack
Song..... "I don't care".....	T. Stevenson
Song... "Success to the Old Brigade".....	T. Hoskin
Song "What a good Job I wasn't there".....	P. Jackson
Song... "Lend me your Fairy Wand".....	T. Mitchell
Song..... "Rose of Persia".....	A. Jack
Song "It suddenly dawned upon me".....	T. Armitage
Interval of 15 minutes.	
Overture.....	Orchestra
Song... "What an awful draught".....	J. Stevenson
Song..... "Come to my heart again".....	T. Mitchell
Song... "Mulligan's Motor Car".....	T. Armitage
and A. Jack	
Song... "Fighting lads of England".....	T. Hoskin
Song... "What do you do with your Money".....	P. Jackson
Song..... "My First Wife".....	A. Jack
Song..... "I didn't like it".....	T. Armitage
Silent absurdity	
<i>The Rival Lovers</i>	
Soppy Fritz..... (The Rival).....	T. Armitage
Kailum..... (The Barber).....	A. Jack
Mrs. Bumkum	T. Jago
Miss Bumkum	T. Stevenson.
"God Save the King."	

The officers for 1904 are as follows:—R.W.M. Wor. Bro. H. P. D. Hyett; Immediate P.M. Wor. Bro. W. E. Claret; Deputy Master, Wor. Bro. F. Howell; Wor. Senior Warden, Bor. F. Last; Secretary, Wor. Bro. H. Horley; Senior Deacon, Bro. E. Day; Organist, Bro. W. Carbury; D. of C., Bro. R. J. Allwork; Steward, Bro. J. East, W.J.W., Bro. P. Jackson; Treasurer, Bro. J. J. Blake; Junior Deacon, Bro. J. W. Wiltshire; Chaplain, Bro. R. M. Healy; Junior Guard, Bro. A. W. Hill; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

Two months ago seeds of the mosquito plant *Ocimum viride*, were received from Lagos. These were sown, and the plants obtained from them are now two or three inches high, so that in a short time anyone wishing to experiment with the plant will be able to do so. Sir, William Thiselton-Dyer wrote to the *Times* recently on the subject and pointed out the improbability of the plant affording any protection against mosquitoes. Of course the plant yields an aromatic oil, and this if applied to the skin will, no doubt, keep off mosquitoes just the same as eucalyptus oil or oil of peppermint will if applied in a similar manner, but we very much doubt whether putting a plant or two in one's room would be sufficient to prevent Hongkong mosquitoes from paying their nightly visits. The plant belongs to the same family as the thyme, sage, and basil and bears the same generic name as the latter. A few specimens have been put in the No. 3 house.

The papaw tree, numbers of which are grown in Hongkong, has also the reputation of keeping mosquitoes at a safe distance, but we are likewise sceptical about its benign influence as we have found larvae of mosquitoes beneath the trees in hundreds at least, and spiders, ants, and other insects on the stems and leaves apparently enjoying themselves. The botanical name of this tree is *Carica papaya*, and it belongs to the passion-flower family.

The maidenhair fern balls, or rather baskets, in the plant houses in the old garden are in good condition just now. The botanical name of this plant is *Adiantum cuneatum*, and it is a native of Brazil and was introduced into England from that place in 1820. These plants are generally grown from seeds, or more correctly speaking, spores, and baskets similar to those under notice will take about eighteen months or two years to produce. *Adiantums* may, of course, be increased by division. The method of raising ferns from spores is rather interesting. The soil should be either baked or boiled in order to kill any seeds which it may contain, for if these were allowed to remain they would in all probability destroy the species it was desired to increase. The pots in which the spores

are sown should be well drained, and then about two inches of soil put on top of the drainage. The actual sowing is a very simple affair, as all that is required is to select a frond with ripe spores and place it on the soil with the surface containing the spores against the soil for preference. Then cover the pot with a piece of glass, and after the spores have dropped out of their cases water carefully from the bottom of the pot. This is easily done by lowering the pot gradually in a bucket of water and keeping it there until the top of the soil shows the first trace of dampness, when remove the pot from the water, as the remainder of the soil will become damp by capillary attraction. Afterwards water the pots in the same way, when required, until the plants are big enough to transplant. Watering from the top of the pot would be almost sure to wash all the spores away, as they are so very minute. The pots containing the spores should be kept in a moist atmosphere and shaded from the sun. In about two or three months, or perhaps less, according to the species, signs of vegetable life will be seen in the pots, but these will not be ferns, but what are known as *prothalli*, which bear the organs necessary for fertilisation. The ferns will be developed after fertilisation has taken place.

THE KIAOCHAU BUDGET.

The Kiaochau Budget, as presented to the German Reichstag, is as follows, the figures being in Marks, and the last two years' figures being given for comparison:—

	1904	1903	1902
Income:—			
Colony's income M...	505,300	455,000	360,000
Allowance of Treasury	12,583,000	12,876,000	12,441,000
Total	13,088,300	12,876,000	12,404,000
Expenses.			
Civil administration ..	984,504	966,664	799,547
Military administration ..	2,404,356	2,441,755	2,368,539
Joint expenses	1,972,888	1,936,897	1,791,255
	5,361,748	4,345,316	4,959,239
Harbour	3,473,000	2,900,000	3,400,000
Other Public Works ..	1,784,000	1,934,000	2,105,000
Houses for Officers ..	100,000	200,000	200,000
Planting forests	80,000	106,000	45,000
Fortifications	500,000	700,000	800,000
Lighthouses, etc.	40,000	40,000	75,000
Floating dock	1,500,000	1,500,000	400,000
Electric Works	20,000		
Extraordinary expenses ..	7,697,000	7,470,000	7,375,000
Reserve funds	19,552	60,654	69,081
Permanent expenses ..	5,361,748	5,345,316	4,959,239
Total	13,088,300	12,876,000	12,404,000

The amount for the purchase and completion of the electric works at Singtau became necessary, when the negotiations about a participation of the Government failed in consequence of the too high demands of the owners.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

RAISING FUNDS.

Canton, 5th December.

Export of rice to foreign ports is now permitted, and the authorities have placed it in the hands of a company, which bears the name of Yueh Feng (Yueh Prosperity) Company. This monopoly is held on the condition that not more than 500,000 piculs may be exported annually, and the right of export expires after six years. For this privilege the immense sum of \$1,400,000 is to be paid, of which \$20,000 have been paid in advance. The people are beginning to complain already of the rise in the price of what corresponds to the people's loaf at home.

The provincial authorities are evidently hard put to it to raise funds. What with the Kwangsi campaign, and the disturbances in other parts of the province, large sums have been spent on the up-keep of the thousands of troops sent down from the north. The building of the new bund will prove a costly affair. Work has already begun below Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's Wharf. The river will be filled in for a considerable distance, probably as far out as the flower-boats, lately moved to Cheung Sha, and all this will cost money.

Then again, the Kwangtung share of the indemnity is not small. I hear that the Viceroy is negotiating a loan of \$1,000,000 to meet the expenses which his energetic administration renders necessary.

H.E. STILL ILL.

H.E. is unfortunately not yet able to resume work. He has applied for another month's leave. A word about his very capable secretaries may be of interest. Mr. Wen Tsung Yao, the English interpreter, was educated at Queen's College, Hongkong. He proceeded to Tientsin, where he acted as professor in a Chinese Government school for several years. He was then sent to assist in the work of drafting the Mackay treaty, and after the conclusion of these duties came down with Shum as a *Taotai*. Mr. Kao, the French interpreter, is generally acknowledged to be an excellent French scholar, his translations of speeches at the dinner last week being especially admired. He was educated at a French school in Foochow.

Canton, 9th December.

RAISING FUNDS.

I mentioned in my last letter that the Provincial Treasury was sadly in lack of funds wherewith to meet current expenses. The Chinese papers have it that the following sums have been raised:—\$200,000 from the tax on Fan-Tan saloons, \$1,200,000 from the farmer of the Wai Sing lottery, and \$500,000 from the duty on exported rice. In connection with this last, the five principal charitable institutions in Canton have sent a petition to the Viceroy, praying for the prohibition of the export of rice. The petitioners say that grave discontent is being caused by the rise in the price of rice, and fear that there may be a disturbance.

Although the above-named immense sums have been raised, the Treasury still finds it hard to make both ends meet. The Shang Hou Chü, or Board of Reorganisation, from which the Viceroy appropriated \$400,000 towards the expenses of the Kwangsi campaign, has now to be reimbursed, and it is said that in order to raise the necessary funds large sales of Government lands throughout the province will take place.

BUILDING ACTIVITY.

In Canton and Shameen great activity is noticeable in the builder's trade. A French hospital has been built not far from the cathedral, while the new medical college in connection with the Canton hospital occupies a prominent position on the river-front; and higher up a club for Chinese merchants has just been completed. This building is in the foreign style, and will abut on the Bund. In Shameen three new houses or blocks are being put up. Behind the Banque de l'Indo-Chine Messrs. Mehta & Co. are having offices built, while a few yards further west is a large block owned by four Parsee gentlemen; and to the rear of Messrs. Deacon & Co. the residence of the German Consul will shortly be opened.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

I read with interest the article in the *Daily Press* on the barbarous overcrowding of sheep on the coast-steamers. Anyone who, like myself, has travelled on those boats must have been thoroughly disgusted at a state of affairs which would not be permitted for a single day at home.

[FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 8th December.

SHOOTING.

Sport is becoming quite keen in Canton with the rice-crops and green fields extending for miles and miles up the river, wild scenery around, and invigorating cold to stimulate one to exertion. Generally, shooting parties start from Shameen on Saturday evening so as to enjoy the sport the whole day on Sunday, and be back on Monday morning. Last week parties in flower-boats, house-boats and slipper-boats, with music and refreshment on board, went to Wongsba, Sachong, Siakmoon, and Peitan, where game abounds. A well-known shot, belonging to Messrs. Reuter, Brooksmann & Co., was lucky enough to bag amongst other field game a pair of full-grown royal pheasants, weighing six and a half pounds, on one of the hills at Sachong where he was trying to put up partridges. I am told that the pair of

pheasants have been sent to Hongkong to be stuffed and presented to the City Hall Museum.

THE ANTI-SMOKING VICEROY.

The Viceroy does not smoke even a cigarette, and hates persons that smoke. It is said on pretty good authority that he intends to put a tax upon opium-smokers in Kwangtung and Kwangsi of five dollars a year, for a license.

HINDRANCES TO EDUCATION.

Most of the colleges in Canton are closed or going to be closed, simply because of mismanagement or misbehaviour on the part of the teachers or pupils. The Kwong Nga College, for instance, in which English and Chinese are taught, is shut on account of friction between masters and pupils.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 5th December.

PIRACY NEAR YAMCHOW.

A big junk left this port on the 23rd ult. for Fong Sing, a port near Yamchow, with a valuable cargo, it is said, to the value of over \$6,000, including a few packages of native opium, and treasure amounting to some \$4,000. All went well until the junk was near Yamchow, when two suspicious-looking junks were sighted, and on approaching, one on either side, their manœuvres betrayed evil intentions. The skipper of the trading junk intended to alter her course to avoid them if possible, but the passengers, amongst whom there were eight braves, insisted that the junk should proceed without fear, as they had arms and ammunition to resist any attack. In a short time, as the pirates were drawing nearer, volleys were fired on the junk. The soldiers at once returned the fire, but the struggle did not last long, for the pirates were soon on board the junk, killing no less than twenty-one people amongst the crew and passengers, including the braves, whose courage cost them their lives. After taking everything worth having into their boats the pirates deserted the junk. Three of the crew, who had concealed themselves during the slaughter, then managed to reach Yamchow. The authorities there, on learning the news, telegraphed to Pakhoi for a gunboat to cruise for the pirates, and the *An-lan* was despatched, but she returned soon, only to record one more unsuccessful expedition against the pirates.

A FARCE IN THE HARBOUR.

Some two weeks ago, a most laughable farce was enacted in this harbour. A junk arrived about midnight with a troupe of native actors on board. When about to drop anchor the passengers assembled in a crowd on deck, and in their eagerness to get ashore they made a great noise calling for sampans, which aroused the suspicion of the sentry on board the Chinese gunboat *Fuk Po*, lying not far away. He thought that the big crowd was a party of brigands descending on the town, and opened fire on the junk. The people on board naturally became alarmed and began to shout at the top of their voices that they were actors and not pirates, when the firing ceased. By this time the guards ashore, on hearing the discharge of fire arms, had sent a few men to the beach to learn the cause of it, but their presence was only useful to add to the hearty laughter amongst all concerned on learning the true state of things. Fortunately nobody on board the junk was hit.

SPORTS.

I hear that the community is going to be treated to athletic sports again this year during the approaching festive season—probably on Christmas Day. The affair, it is said, promises to be an improvement on that of last year, and there will be more prizes to be struggled for.

A Seoul despatch of the 24th November says:—The Governor of Wiju wires to the Foreign Department that nine Russians and ten Chinese arrived at Kindo Island and drove away the residents from five cottages, declaring that the buildings were required by them for the transportation of timber. Attempts on the part of the Governor to stop the audacious behaviour of the Russians have proved futile, and he has therefore applied to the Government to open negotiations with the Russian Minister in order to stop the Russians from such illegal action.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MISSIONARIES AND THE PRESS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 4th December.

SIR,—To answer your recent remarks about missionaries was so easy that probably this is why no one thought it worth doing, but there are still some simple people who are led by leading articles, and a word is due to these poor sheep.

I am not a missionary, and do not hold a brief for missions, but being weary of ignorant abuse of people who after all are God's creatures I would like to advance some extenuating circumstances why all the missionaries in China should not be hanged. Of course missionary methods, like newspaper methods and all other methods in this imperfect world, are not the best, but only the best that have been discovered. Why did not the writer of the article reveal better ones? The second point of the article was that very old criticism that the charity of missionaries should begin at home, that they should not abandon the perishing British heathen. This generally comes from those who have gone abroad themselves like the writer of the article, or from those who are asked to subscribe to home missions. In Great Britain people are said to be Gospel-hardened, so much are they evangelised. There is a chance for everyone at home to at least hear of Christ's Kingdom. As a matter of fact, however, nothing does the home Church so much good as thinking and working for the Church abroad. It is the old story of the traveller in Russia. When on the point of perishing from cold he stumbled upon a man buried in the snow. He set to work to pull him out and rub him, and the exercise kept his own blood in circulation. That Church does most for the heathen at home that does most for the heathen abroad. Money lent to the Lord in obedience to His command to evangelise the world is well invested. At the present time there are in Canton English missionaries who are mainly supported by Christian Chinese living in Australia. One day America and Europe may become not merely almost, but altogether heathen, and we shall get a good return for the money advanced if Chinese and Indian Christians are sent to reconvert us.—Yours, etc.

E. J. HARDY.

(Chaplain to the Forces.)

MISSIONARIES AND THE PRESS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 6th December.

SIR,—The Rev E. J. Hardy, Chaplain of the Forces, over whose signature a letter appears in your columns on Saturday on the above subject, hath, undeniably, a pretty wit, but if his letter contains any serious argument in support of carrying a knowledge of the Bible into foreign lands it has been effectually obscured by the witticisms which corruscate in almost every line.

So far as I am able to discern signs of argument in the letter, it appears to me as a curiously inconsequential epistle. Mr. Hardy first tells us that in Great Britain people are said to be Gospel-hardened, so much are they evangelised; and yet he concludes his letter with the observation that "One day America and Europe may become not merely almost, but altogether heathen." i.e. Mr. Hardy, may not subscribe to the first of these statements which he is careful to attribute to other people, but he apparently has clearer views concerning the second. If by the term "heathen" he means definite rejection of the supernaturalist doctrines of the Gospel, I am inclined to share his prediction; but it would be extremely interesting to have this confession of the failure of the Gospel to take hold of men's hearts and minds put clearly in cold print by a clergyman.

Mr. Hardy may be regarded as more of a man of the world than the average parson, and he probably knows better than the great majority of the men of his cloth that among the rising generation of the mankind in the West the legends of the Bible are finding a meagre acceptance as articles of faith. Take any group of intelligent young men and let them answer honestly, aye or nay, whether they believe in

what are described in the pulpits as the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith, and I warrant quite 95 per cent. of those young men would be set down as extremely unorthodox. Undoubtedly Europe and America are slowly emancipating themselves from the thralldom of a body of religious doctrine which has been reared on a foundation of superstition and profound ignorance. China undoubtedly offers a fine field for the faith which the West is discarding; but when Europe and America shall have become "altogether heathen"—I would prefer to say rational in their religious beliefs—the future missionaries from China whom Mr. Hardy's prophetic eye pictures reconverting the nations would meet with far less success than the Western missionaries ought to achieve in China to-day.

Let me not be understood by these few observations to infer that I entertain any strong objection to the presence in China of the six or seven thousand missionaries who are now scattered throughout the length and breadth of the vast empire; nor would I be disposed to say even that in conditions of society such as may be found in all parts of China, the doctrines which no longer appeal strongly to more enlightened peoples are altogether powerless for good here. The preaching of such doctrines in China must, in their conflict with existing faiths, serve to stimulate thought, and that is one of the primary and most pressing needs of China. Let it be remembered also that a missionary does not carry with him only his body of religious doctrines; he stands among a strange people as a type of another race—a messenger from Mars as it were—and as he unfolds to a benighted people his knowledge of the arts and industries and wonders of the West till, as in the case of Goldsmith's village parson,

"the wonder grew

How one small head could carry all he knew." he becomes consciously or unconsciously a missionary of commerce. In this light, I fancy, most of us prefer to view the missionary, and for this advantage much in the way of tactless efforts to proselytise is cheerfully forgiven.—Yours, &c.,

UNORTHODOX.

MISSIONARIES AND THE PRESS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 8th December.

SIR,—I note that the Rev. E. J. Hardy has come forward to address the "simple people," those "poor sheep" who do not thoroughly understand the great benefits of Christian missionary work. The rev. gentleman treats the subject in his well-known humorous style, which, however, is more entertaining than convincing. Mr. Hardy claims that "money lent to the Lord in obedience to his command to evangelise the world is well invested." Waiving the point that Christ instructed his disciples to carry neither purse nor scrip, there still remains the question of investment. From a commercial point of view there are not a few business men who would agree that to "lend to the Lord in obedience to his command to evangelise the world" was a sound investment. To give money for evangelising purposes in the hope of gaining a commercial return is probably considered a good stroke of business. To give money to the cause in the hope of reward, hereafter is on the same line of self-interest.

This type of investment was probably not intended by the rev. gentleman. Perhaps he wanted to infer that to invest money in the promulgation of the Christian religion meant the moral and intellectual advancement of all the peoples that embrace it, and the consequent interaction for good was a beneficent investment. Are we justified in drawing such an expectation from the past history of the Christian world? Has Christianity always meant the moral and intellectual advancement of the peoples that have embraced it? The history of the intellectual development of Europe does not lend any support to the claim. For centuries there was a deadlock in science, a stagnation in art, and an utter abandonment of all intellectual and progressive pursuits. For centuries the history of Christianity was the history of persecutions—sect upon sect. Christianity founded the inquisitions, it applied the rack,

the thumbscrew, the stake, and a thousand other tortures that nothing but a religious bigotry could have invented. Christianity persecuted to the bitter end all independent thought, which dared to differ from it. To mention the treatment of Copernicus, Galileo, and Bruno, is to mention the treatment meted out to all independent thought during many centuries. That intolerance wrangling, and persecution which expressed itself physically in the centuries past expresses itself verbally even at the present time.

And why? Is it not because no two sects are entirely agreed as to what Christianity is? Though all Christians profess to have the key which opens the doors to all the mysteries of life! There is the true God, the true morality, the true religion, the true revelation! And though the Christians assume the very positions they have yet to prove, missionaries are being sent out to promulgate a religion which is fast being pushed into the limbo whence is woven that "baseless fabric" of which "dreams are made of."

What is Christianity? Is it to live the Christ's life? Then where are the Christians? A Christian Bishop has said that Christianity as interpreted in the Sermon on the Mount is impossible in any civilised state. Count Leo Tolstoi, the one man in Europe who attempts to live this life, is regarded by Christianity at large as a harmless dreamer. Christ taught that we should sell all we have, and give it to the poor. He taught that we should turn the cheek to the smiter, that we should take no thought to the things of this world. Do the Christians of to-day act up to these injunctions? Which of them does these things? Not the clergy, not the bishops, not the laity, not the missionaries, not the Pope. Then why do Christians deceive themselves, and why use wealth to spread such a creed?—Yours, etc.,

WM. DAVIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As a new arrival in Hongkong I have been much struck with, and surprised at, the bareness and barn-like appearance of the interior of S. John's Cathedral—the church of the Colony, and this same matter has been mentioned to me by several other strangers and new arrivals here. Why, we ask, are there no lights on the altar even during the celebration of the Eucharist? Why is the altar left to be the darkest place in the church, so that worshippers at the western end of the church can scarcely discern that there is an altar? Why are the lights at Evensong so dim that it is difficult to see one's book? Why are the seats arranged so close to each other that it is almost impossible to kneel with any comfort, and entirely impossible for even a moderately stout person? and, again, why, when the Bishop is present, and officiating, does the chaplain pronounce the Absolution? Is this not contrary to the Rubric? And why—but there, the questions to be asked are too numerous to mention categorically, but are such as must suggest themselves to any Anglican who attends at but two services at the Cathedral. The answer to these questions would appear to be something like this: Because those responsible for the beautifying of the church and for the conduct of the services care nothing for any appeal to the senses—a factor so essential in religious service—and apparently little for the rulings of the Rubric, which appears to be getting more and more disregarded in certain limbs of the Anglican Church. I have read a good deal lately about "missions" to the Chinese in the local papers for conscience's sake, let us have some missions to ourselves first.—Yours, etc.,

ANGLICAN.

S. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 10th December.

SIR,—The remarks of "Anglican" voicing possibly a larger number of aggrieved than Church authorities imagine, are worthy of more than passing attention. It seems, however, the not uncommon lot of Anglicans in the Colonies to lament the lack of "glory and beauty" of worship in their local churches, even where

these might be rightly expected. They should then be willing to make greater personal sacrifices of time and money to hasten on the dawning of a brighter day when their legitimate wishes and hopes should claim a chief pastor's recognition.—Yours truly,

W. T. V. PIGRUM.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 37th annual ordinary meeting of the China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at noon in the offices of the Company. Mr. E. Goetz (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. Schubart, E. Ormiston, and C. Michélan (directors), Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. G. T. Veitch, H. C. Wilcox, J. W. Ross Taylor, R. K. Leigh, F. D. Goddard, W. J. Saunders, H. W. Slade, G. de Champeaux, T. H. Reid, W. E. Schmidt, and Jas. Whittall (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some time and with your approval we will follow the usual custom and take them as read. As compared with the previous year, the premium income shows an increase of some \$61,000, whilst the loss settlements, although still heavy, show a decrease of \$17,000. You will notice, however, that we have had this year to meet a material loss in exchange. This is due to our endeavour, in view of the instability of exchange and the impossibility of forecasting its movements, to as far as possible keep our funds equally divided between gold and silver, and this deficit is largely the difference between the cost of considerable conversions into gold made during the year and the rate at which the sterling exchange is taken in our books. The maintenance of this latter rate at 2/- has been amply justified in the recent share rise experienced. On the whole, the outturn of the year's operations may, I think, be considered fairly satisfactory, but you, directors feel that the point has not yet been reached when they can with safety, or any certainty of its continuance, recommend the declaration of an increased dividend to shareholders. Our first consideration must be to place our liquid reserves on a basis which will preclude the possibility through the coming of a bad year, and bad years are bound to come, of our having to again entrench on our reserve fund. The wisdom of this policy of restraint and patience will, I am sure, appeal to all who have the best interests of the Company at heart. After providing for a general dividend of 16 per cent. and a contributory dividend of 15 per cent. on bonus-bearing contributions, we propose to carry the remaining available balance to underwriting suspense account to meet all further claims on account of the past and previous years, and thus close the account. One new item appearing under the heading of London investments may be specially referred to. The lease of the offices occupied by the Company in London being close on expiry and not open for renewal, the necessity of securing other suitable accommodation has had to be considered, and I am glad to be able to inform you that we have secured the leasehold, with 34 years to run, of a most suitable building in an equally good, if not better, position on Cornhill. The cost of the purchase of this leasehold was £25,000, but whilst the building acquired affords far superior accommodation for our growing needs in London, it is hoped that, after payment of ground rent and taxes &c., and making full allowance for sinking fund and interest on the sub-rentals to be obtained from the portion of the building not required for our own uses, will reduce the net annual cost to very little more than the rental we have for some time been paying. Your directors feel that we are greatly indebted to the exertions and forethought of the London Committee and the London Manager in bringing so important a matter to so successful an issue. The item under notice is the first instalment only of the purchase money, the balance will appear in the current year's accounts. The properties under mortgage to the Company have, as usual, been reported on by Messrs.

Palmer & Turner, and their valuations show ample margins. There remains one subject for me to refer to, and that is the deeply regretted and enforced retirement of our late esteemed secretary Mr. W. H. Ray, the circumstances of which are, I think, well known to all of you. Mr. Ray had been in charge of the company's affairs since 1870—a period of 33 years. In 1875, when the company was practically reconstituted, Mr. Ray was appointed its first secretary, and that position he held during the succeeding 28 years until recently forced to relinquish office through a complete and deplorable break-down in health. But, gentlemen, in the sound and satisfactory position our company stands to-day, Mr. Ray has left a fitting memorial to the best years of a strenuous life spent wholly and devotedly in its service, and although unhappily we cannot restore his shattered health, you will I am sure cordially support your directors in their desire to in some measure recognise his long and faithful services, by ensuring to him a freedom from anxiety in the years of retirement that may be left to him. I shall be glad to answer any questions you may desire to ask before I formally move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

Sir PAUL CHATER said—Mr. Chairman,—I think the statement to which we have just listened is one of more than ordinary interest. It is satisfactory to learn that the Directors have resolved to persevere in the sound policy of building up the financial position of the Company, rather than increasing the dividend. It is also, in my opinion, much wiser to carry forward the balance in a liquid form, than to make a too hasty addition to the reserve fund, which might hereafter have to be withdrawn. I observe that the leasehold of a building in Cornhill has been acquired for the accommodation of the London Office, but I am glad to have the assurance of the Chairman that this move will prove a sound investment, and not entail much increase in rental. I am sure the shareholders all join the regret expressed by the Chairman at the unfortunate retirement of our late secretary, Mr. Ray, who for so many years served this Company so well and faithfully, first as assistant and then as secretary. The retiring allowance granted him by the Board is, I think, under the circumstances, one that will be heartily endorsed by the shareholders. In his successor, Mr. Whittall, we have, I am certain, a man in whom we can repose entire confidence, both as to his ability and trust. With these remarks I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution that the report and accounts be adopted. (Applause).

Mr. J. W. ROSS TAYLOR—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen—I am sorry to find myself in opposition to the directors, and my regret is all the deeper that it should be a difference of opinion arising out of the retiring allowance to our late secretary, Mr. W. H. Ray, with whom, I know, we all most deeply sympathise on the sad breakdown of his health. But seven years ago, 1896, we got \$5 dividend and the reserve fund was raised to \$1,000,000. Next year, unfortunately, through no fault of anybody, the work fell below zero and an amount was taken from the reserve fund. Ever since, while some of our competitors, through good management, have been forging ahead we have continued to receive \$96,000, equal to \$4 per share. It has been my lot before on several occasions to vote for more generous terms by directors to their staff, and no one can appreciate more than I can the generous impulse which dictates this recommendation of the directors, but I think in this case really your generosity goes a little farther than the position of the Company warrants. It is no fault of anyone, no doubt, but the Company has been marking time more or less during the past seven years, and I do not think it can be maintained that we are in a position to give over 10 per cent. per annum of the dividends credited to the shareholders to one officer—one of our retiring officers. It is quite possible that in future some other officers may retire and we may have to pay them money. I do not know that any shareholder will second my proposal, though it goes greatly against the grain with me to criticise an action dictated by generosity whose only fault is that it goes too far, but I feel compelled as a matter of principle and as

being no inconsiderable shareholder. I move that Mr. Ray get a retiring allowance of £900 per annum for the first three years after leaving the Colony, and afterwards £500 per annum. I have not asked anyone to second this proposal.

The amendment was not seconded.

The CHAIRMAN—I presume you do not want to take it to the vote?

Mr. ROSS TAYLOR—Certainly not.

The report and accounts were carried unanimously, Mr. Ross Taylor not voting.

On the motion of Mr. GODDARD, seconded by Mr. LEIGH, the confirmation of Mr. C. Michelan as a director was confirmed.

Mr. ROSS TAYLOR moved that Messrs. E. Goetz and C. Michelan, who retired by rotation, be re-elected to the directorate.

Mr. H. W. SLADE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. G. T. VEITCH moved the re-election of Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and T. Arnold as auditors.

Mr. H. C. WILCOX seconded and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that dividend warrants would be ready to-day (Wednesday).

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The following is the twenty-seventh report of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Company, Ltd.), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at Tokyo on the 26th November:—

The gross profits of the company for the past half-year amount to yen 3,917,260.91, out of which there has been paid:—

Depreciation of the Company's fleet and property	720,448.630
Insurance fund	174,374.090
Ships' structural repair fund	432,957.600

Yen 1,327,780.370

leaving a balance of yen 3,322,771.815, including yen 733,291.275 brought forward from the last account

The directors now propose that yen 129,474.030 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 1,914,053.756; yen 800,000,000 to the fund for the extension of services and improvement of the fleet, bringing that amount to yen 3,500,000,000; and that yen 71,358.110 be allowed as directors' and auditors' fees. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of ten per cent., together with two per cent. as special dividend, thus making twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 1,320,000.000.

The balance, yen 1,001,939.675, will be carried forward to the next account.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 8th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM BY CHINESE-AMERICAN
COMMERCIAL CO.

The Chinese-American Commercial Company claimed from Wai Chan & Company \$876.37 due on a promissory note, dated 27th October, 1903.

Mr. J. Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs and stated to his Lordship that he understood Mr. Thomson, for the defendants, had withdrawn from the case.

After hearing evidence his Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiffs.

Thursday, 10th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISPUTE ABOUT THE BUILDING OF STEAMSHIPS.

A case was called in which Tso Cheung Shi, widow, 162, Queen's Road West, suing as executrix of Tsoi Heung Po deceased, claimed

from To Shing, 22, Peel Street, \$28,000 money received and \$12,000 damages for breach of contract in respect to the building of two steamships. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley of Messrs. Denny and Bowley, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), was for the defendant.

Mr. Slade said he must make a further application for an adjournment in order to enable them to obtain certain documents which a telegram received only on Tuesday said were on their way from Hanoi. The vast majority of the papers in the case were down there, being in use in connection with the case that was going on in Hanoi. The only information was that certain documents had been sent. He would also mention that they had not received from the other side copies of certain material documents which they had in their possession; some which had been received within the last half-hour were very long and complicated. They themselves had been unable to deliver to the other side copies of many of their documents, but they were admittedly unprepared to carry on this case. Some of these notes had come into their hands only two days ago; they had used the utmost promptitude in getting these translated but could not get it done before because they had not the documents. Under the circumstances he thought it would only be in the interests of justice for the purpose of arriving at the truth of this case to grant an adjournment. The application was not made on frivolous grounds but on really material grounds.

His Lordship—What do you say, Mr. Pollock?

Mr. Pollock—I am instructed that eight or nine months ago—

His Lordship—Do you consent?

Mr. Pollock—No.

His Lordship said that in that case he would not grant an adjournment. He had had this matter before him very fully. It was set down originally for trial in August but was postponed till November. Another application was made in November after he had arranged everything and given up the time to this case which he would otherwise have appropriated to other cases. On that occasion he gave a further adjournment till 10th December, when he intimated that in nearly every case that had come on lately some one would apply at the last moment for an adjournment. Only two days ago he had heard a summons in this case as to whether there should not be an adjournment and both parties had consented.

Mr. Slade explained he only agreed not to press his summons on the ground that certain documents were coming into their possession which they believed would enable them to win their case.

His Lordship remarked that there had been already three applications for adjournment. Parties had had ample opportunity of getting the required documents. Mr. Henry Piry appeared to have some litigation down in Hanoi which he seemed to think more important than this litigation here. He was not going to have that Court made a convenience for anybody who chose to come and get him to sit. He was not going to adjourn this case; he was going to hear it.

Mr. Slade said that many of the documents were actually in use in the court at Hanoi; they could not be in both places at once; certain documents were actually on their way.

His Lordship—I decline to adjourn.

Mr. Pollock in opening the case submitted the statement of claim which bore that on or about 10th February, 1901, defendant entered into a verbal agreement with Chan Yuk Shang whereby defendant agreed to build, complete, and equip a paddle-wheel steamship within nine months from that date for a price of \$48,000; and on or about 7th April, 1901, defendant entered into a second verbal agreement with Chan Yuk Shang whereby defendant agreed to build, complete, and equip a second steamer within a period of eight months from that date for a price of \$30,000; the steamers to be delivered on proper payments being made. The plaintiff's claim, said Mr. Pollock, was made simply and solely on the ground that defendant had failed to carry out the contract he entered into with the deceased husband of the plaintiff.

The plaintiff's case rested upon certain written documents of which, he submitted, the interpretation was perfectly clear. The first document of importance was the agreement of 9th October, 1901. After the work had been begun defendant received from the plaintiff various sums on account amounting to \$49,000, the balance to be paid when the steamers were delivered. Although there was no interpretation clause to this document, as a matter of fact he would be in a position to prove that this document of 9th October and a subsequent one of May, 1902, were interpreted to the defendant by Mr. Yan Kwan Un, the interpreter to Messrs. Denny and Bowley. The only question to be fought out in respect to the agreement was its proper legal construction. They came before the Court to ask damages because the agreement had not been carried out. They said that the document could only have one meaning, which was that the plaintiff was entitled, on the proper payments being made, to delivery of these launches. The first launch was handed over to plaintiff's nominee, but with regard to the second launch there was a difficulty and it was not handed over, for while they were actually applying through their solicitors to have it completed and finished off it was spirited away up to Canton. Then security was ordered.

His Lordship—Yes, \$30,000 security, I remember.

Mr. Pollock went on to argue that the agreement was about as clear an agreement as could be made. On the contract it appeared that in addition to the \$49,000 that had been paid a further sum of \$15,000 was paid on account of the balance due. Therefore there only remained a balance of \$14,000 to be paid altogether on account of the launches. The position of parties then, after this document had been signed and the money handed over was that the defendant was bound to deliver the launches upon the receipt of the \$14,000. It was quite clear that the defendant had broken his contract. He thought it was admitted that the launch was taken away out of the jurisdiction of the Court and they said that the defendant by not delivering it to the plaintiff broke his contract and must pay them as damages the value of the launch. As to its value, an offer of \$40,000 had been made for the launch.

Evidence was afterwards taken for the plaintiff.

The Court adjourned at 4.30 until 10.30 a.m. to-day.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ERRATIC METERS.

The Hongkong and China Gas Co., Ltd., sued Mrs. T. A. Bateman for \$21.40 in respect of gas and fittings supplied. Mr. E. J. Grist of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff firm and Mr. J. Hays of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors, was for the defendant.

Mr. Hays complained that he had not seen the particulars of claim; these had only been sent in at the last moment.

Mr. Grist said that if he wanted an adjournment he had better apply for it at once.

His Lordship—I should like to know something about the defence. You are not going into the question of bad gas, are you? (Laughter.)

Mr. Hays—It is a matter of whether or not your Lordship can possibly believe that the meter—

His Lordship—I can believe anything about meters.

Mr. Hays—You can believe anything about meters?

His Lordship—Yes, water or gas.

Mr. Hays—Then it is perfectly possible to imagine that the defendant in this case had been charged with more than—

His Lordship—The proper course if you don't think a meter right, is to send and tell the Company to test it. If it is found to be wrong then they have to pay the cost. I think it is the same practice here as it is at home. If the meter is right you have to pay.

Mr. Hays—Not until after it was tested did it read in a normal or sensible way at all. For one month the gas consumed, according to the meter, was no less than five times more than the

same month of the previous year, or any one month this year.

His Lordship—I had exactly the same thing. A man named Collins, who is in bankruptcy now, a cycle-manufacturer, stated that in one month the price of his water rose about three times.

Mr. Hays—It is the amount of gas alleged to have been consumed.

His Lordship—But we see the same thing regarding water.

Mr. Hays—I submit that your Lordship is sitting in this Court as a jury—if this went to jury they would unanimously find it is absurd to imagine that Mrs. Bateman's house could possibly consume 5,000 feet of gas unless the people turned on all the jets for fun during the day.

His Lordship—I had to pay when I was not living in the house at all. The Gas Company charged me exactly the same amount and I was not in the house at all. You had better pay, I think. It is a very hopeless thing fighting water and gas companies, I can tell you.

Mr. Grist pointed out that Mrs. Bateman wrote to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., the local agents, saying he was perfectly willing to send them a cheque for the outstanding amount, if in their opinion she had not been wrongfully overcharged. She agreed to pay, and could not possibly get over it.

Mrs. Bateman—Yes; if they could prove I have used that amount.

His Lordship—Of course they could prove it.

Mr. Hays—It is my client's contention that the Company have failed to prove it excepting by the idiotic reading of the meter.

Mr. Grist—The Company replied saying that the matter has been fully gone into and they really could not see that she is hurt in any shape or form.

Evidence was afterwards called and his Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs with costs.

Friday, 11th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISPUTE ABOUT THE BUILDING OF TWO STEAMSHIPS.

The case was again called in which Tso Cheung Shi, widow, 162, Queen's Road West, suing as executrix of Tsoi Heung Po deceased, claimed from To Shing, 22, Peel Street, \$28,000 money received and \$12,000 damages for breach of contract in respect to the building of two steamships. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors), was for the defendant.

One witness was re-examined for the plaintiff.

Mr. Slade in opening the defence said the plaintiff claimed under an agreement with the defendant which he entered into in his own name. The main defence was that though the agreement was in Tsoi Heung Po's own name it was not made on his own behalf but was made by him as a partner in or agent for H. Piry & Co., in which firm he was a partner. In the third paragraph of the statement of defence defendant said that some time in January, 1901, one Henry Piry, a member of the firm of H. Piry & Co., in which firm Tsoi Heung Po deceased, Chan Yuk Shang and Tse Ching Po were also partners, ordered the defendant to build two steamships for the firm at the price of about \$48,000 and \$30,000 respectively and directed the defendant to settle all details with the said Chan Yuk Shang. Defendant accordingly prepared specifications for the two ships whereby he offered to complete the work in 9 and 8 months respectively on payment of the sums of \$48,000 and \$30,000, and the specifications were finally agreed to by the firm of Piry & Co. on or about 10th February and 27th April, 1901, respectively. Shortly after the first of the specifications was agreed to defendant commenced to build the steamships and was paid in various sums and at various times between the 27th February and

5th October, 1901, by the firm and out of the firm's money the sum of \$51,410 in respect of work done on the steamships. Defendant denied that these sums were all received by him from Chan Yuk Shang as alleged in the statement of claim, and denied also that in any of the transactions mentioned therein Chan Yuk Shang was acting as agent for Tsoi Heung Po except in so far as Chan Yuk Shang was agent for Piry & Co. In the beginning of October, 1901, the payments due from the firm for work done on the steamships were much in arrear and defendant was informed by Chan Yuk Shang that Tsoi Heung Po deceased had agreed to advance to the firm the money necessary to complete the steamships if a formal agreement to build the launches were entered into by the defendant, and the defendant thereupon agreed to enter into such formal agreement with Tsoi Heung Po deceased. Defendant accordingly executed the agreement set out in par. 7 of the statement of claim, but said he did not understand the meaning of the recitals in the agreement or that he was making an agreement with Tsoi Heung Po personally and was informed by Chan Yuk Shang and Tsoi Heung Po that the agreement was a mere matter of form. Chan Yuk Shang and Tsoi Heung Po had no authority from Piry & Co. to transfer the ownership of the steamships from the firm to Tsoi Heung Po. In the alternative defendant said that if the legal ownership of the steamships was transferred by the agreement to Tsoi Heung Po, which defendant denied, the ownership was transferred by way of mortgage only for the sums to be advanced by Tsoi Heung Po for the completion of the steamships, and that Tsoi Heung Po received far more than the amount advanced by him by the sale of one of the steamships for the sum of \$66,400. When Tsoi Heung Po made the agreement in his own name as being the owner of the vessel Piry & Co. admitted that they knew about it a very few days afterwards, but they wanted the money and said, "Well, it is one way of doing it," and did not think he would play them false; therefore it was allowed to stand.

His Lordship said this was not a case between Piry & Co. and the deceased man or his representatives; it was practically between the deceased man and the builder who made the written contract. The shipbuilder had to carry out his contract. If when he had built the ship and handed it over, Piry & Co. claimed it, the claim should be fought out between Piry & Co. and the man to whom it had been handed over.

Mr. Slade argued that it was a question of property. The shipbuilder said, "I have the ship and have to deliver it the principal owner." He wanted to prove that this ship was the property of Piry & Co. His case was that it never became the property of Tsoi Heung Po and that at the outside he was the agent for the firm. It was within the right of the principal to adopt the contract of an agent and to sue on the contract of his agent. Going on to recite the facts of the case Mr. Slade stated that Henry Piry in 1901 was trading in Hongkong as Piry & Co. As to whether at that time he had any partners it was impossible for them now to give evidence, but it was believed he had no partner. During the end of the year 1900 Henry Piry obtained from the French Government of Indo-China the monopoly for supplying salt and sulphur in Kwanchauwan in the new territory which had been leased by the French. He had also at that time applied and had received an intimation that his tender had been accepted for the two opium farms in Kwanchauwan, the farm for retailing opium having been granted to him for one year and the other for six years. He had been previously shipping goods from Hongkong in junks and steam-launches under the French flag. Having secured these farms he desired to extend his operations and took three Chinese into partnership. They paid their partnership money into the firm, and all Henry Piry's launches and junks became the property of the firm. In February Henry Piry himself ordered from Chan Yuk Shang these two steamships to be built for the firm for the purpose of trading between Hongkong and Kwanchauwan. They were shallow-draught steamers and were to be used for carrying opium. Shortly afterwards Henry Piry had to

go down to Kwanchauwan to look after his affairs there. He told To Shing to carry on the work and to refer to Chan Yuk Shang for any further details he desired. About July S. D. Piry came down to Hongkong from Shanghai where he had been as secretary for the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, who had been at one time Taotai of Shanghai, and who was Tsoi Heung Po's own brother. When he came down he, being more of a business man than his brother, suggested that it was unsatisfactory for the partnership to go on without a written agreement between the partners and it was agreed to have such an agreement. The agreement was accordingly entered into. Among the assets of the firm appearing therein the two steamships then building were included. The firm was thus formed on the 16th July. After a time it was found that they had undertaken more work than they could accomplish with the capital at their disposal, especially in the shipping line. The building of these steamships was a considerable drain upon them. About the middle of the following February it became necessary to mortgage the larger of the two vessels for the purpose of raising funds. A mortgage for \$15,000 was effected with the Ming Kat firm of which Tse was the principal partner. This sum was used partly for paying the builder and partly for the general purposes of the firm. But they were still pressed for money and were urging the Chinese partners to put up more capital in order to enable the firm to carry on. It appeared that they then had considerable trouble with Chan Yuk Shang. Some time about the end of August Chan Yuk Shang, who had been the manager in Hongkong of the firm, removed all the books of the firm out of the office. When Henry Piry heard of this he revoked Chan Yuk Shang's power of attorney; but before the revocation had taken place Chan Yuk Shang on the 3rd September wrote to To Shing and ordered him to transfer the vessels out of his own name into that of Piry & Co. in the books of the Harbour Office. The steamers were then 80 or 90 per cent. completed. To Shing did not do this however, as he had not been paid. Mr. Slade went on to relate how Tsoi Heung Po had at length come forward and entered into the agreement, referred to above, with To Shing, to supply the money necessary for the completion of the steamers.

A discussion ensued on the question whether a contractor was entitled to hand over goods to a principal who remained undisclosed until before the expiry of the contract time and then claimed them as principal.

His Lordship decided to hear counsel on that point after evidence had been given for the defence.

Evidence for the defence was led.

The Court adjourned at 4.30.

ADMISSION OF A SOLICITOR.

In the Supreme Court on Wednesday His Honour Sir William M. Goodman, Chief Justice, formally admitted to practice as a solicitor in Hongkong Mr. Reginald Harding, who comes to join the firm of Messrs. Ewens and Harston. Mr. J. S. Harston accompanied Mr. Harding.

Mr. E. S. Sharp, K.C., introduced Mr. Harding. Addressing his Lordship he said—I beg, my Lord, to move that Mr. Reginald Harding be admitted and rolled to practice as an attorney and proctor of this honourable Court. I think you have Mr. Harding's papers and I believe they are in order. You have his certificate of admission in England and an affidavit of identity made by Mr. Ewens, who knew Mr. Harding in England, and by Mr. Harding himself. Mr. Harding, as your Lordship will see, has some considerable experience in England, both in London and the country. He was admitted in 1899, having previously been articled in London for five years, with Messrs. Langlois & Co., from whom your Lordship will see a letter regarding his qualifications annexed to the affidavit. On being admitted Mr. Harding acted as managing clerk in the country for two years and then as managing clerk again in London for another two years, until he left England a few weeks ago to come to Hongkong. I have very great pleasure in asking your Lordship to admit him to practise in this Court as attorney and proctor.

His Lordship—I think that everything is in order; therefore I have very much pleasure in approving of Mr. Reginald Harding as an attorney and proctor of this honourable Court. I congratulate you, Mr. Harding, on your admission to the profession here, and I am quite sure you will make it your endeavour to uphold the honour and reputation of the profession. The Court then rose.

INQUEST ON SERGT. MANN.

The inquest on Sergt. Mann, R.G.A., who met his death at Stonecutters' Island under circumstances already reported in these columns, was opened at the Central Police Court on Monday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr. T. Sercombe Smith.

The first witness called was Bombardier J. H. Thomson, R.A., who said that on the morning of the 4th inst. he was in the library at Stonecutters' Island with Gunner Waters, when, hearing a crash in the adjoining room, he rushed there and found Sergt. Mann lying on the floor in a pool of blood. A few minutes before going into the library witness had been speaking to deceased in the reading-room. When he found Mann in that state he immediately went for a doctor. Deceased was lying on his side, with an over-turned chair beside him. The carbine (produced) was lying under deceased.

Lieut. B. A. Craig, R.A.M.C., stated that he was sent for and on going to the reading-room he found deceased on the floor. He found a wound on his face extending from the upper lip to the left eye, while both jaws were fractured, and blood was oozing from the left ear and from a round hole on the top of the skull. The walls near were spattered with blood and there was a bullet hole in the ceiling. The man was quite dead. Witness ordered the body to be removed to the Station Hospital, when he held a post-mortem examination. He found that death was due to a bullet wound in the head, the bullet travelling through the brain and out through the top of the head. The wound was self-inflicted. Witness arrived at this opinion through the closeness of the shot, and the course of the bullet, and position of the wound.

Gunner Waters corroborated the last witness save that he said the gun was not under the deceased but by the side of a chair. The deceased was popular and well-liked by all the men. He had been in charge of the canteen at Stonecutters' Island for three or four months, but witness had never seen him under the influence of liquor.

The inquest was then adjourned until Tuesday, the 15th inst.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 5th December.)

In this (for Hongkong) rigorous weather some keen cricket and football will be looked for to-day. The main event is the game on the Cricket Ground between the Interport XI and the Rest of the H.K.C.C.; but there are also three League cricket matches, and a Rugby football game. The Rest of the Club ought to be able to give the Interport team (minus Lumsden, Cooper, and Lowe, a valuable trio) a good fight, but they would have been stronger still had the *Blenheim* not been in Mirs Bay. The loss of Eng. Lieut. Moore, not to mention Lieuts. Norfolk and Mahon, Messrs. Silver and Batchelor, who all have claims to a place, is no light one.

A Rugby game to-day occupies the attention of the H.K.F.C., the opposition being furnished by a Naval XV. As the Club is almost at full strength—the popular Mr. A. N. Other does not figure in the pack to-day—the result ought to be a win for the landmen; but these naval teams have a knack of showing up well when least expected. The Associationists rest after their defeat on Thursday by the Royal Army Temperance Association by 1 goal to nil. They did not create much of a sensation on that occasion, but it must be remembered that they were not at all representative of the Club, and that the hard-working captain was a notable absentee, being engaged in bowling practice. It is to be trusted another month

will see a more regular side turn out; otherwise there will be small prospect of the Shield coming their way. The R.A.T.A. (whose initials, by the way, puzzled many) seem to have a fair team. I don't know whether the pledge was actually signed by the defeated side immediately after Thursday's game, as an obscure rumour says.

The polo match to-day at Causeway Bay should provide an interesting spectacle. Scotland (Messrs C. H. Ross, F. H. Lyon, R.N., J. Johnstone, and Lieut. Simpson) meet The World (Major Radcliff, Captains Nugent and Carleton, and Lieut. Knox, R.N.). For over a year now the Scots have never been beaten. The Irish contingent is numerous now, but is feeling the loss of Captain Badham Thornhill. Nevertheless a challenge has been issued to Scotland and the match will probably come off soon. In that case it is expected that the acting Governor, for the first time in the history of the Colony, will be seen performing. H.E. would indeed have been in "The World's" team to-day, but for an important yachting engagement.

The date of the bowling match between the Hongkong Club and the German Club is fast approaching. On Thursday the Hongkong Club team did very well in practice on their opponents' alleys, and indeed the impression is now in favour of a victory for them, though the Germans started warm favourites. At any rate the contest on the 11th and 12th instant promises excitement in bowling circles.

24 griffins for the Jockey Club arrive here to-morrow by the *Choyang* from Shanghai, and they will be drawn for on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

At the Hankow Autumn Race Meeting, completed last week, the most successful owner was Mr. Fawcett with 6 firsts, 7 seconds, and 2 thirds. Mr. Bouchard followed with 5 firsts, 2 seconds, and a third. Mr. Moller was top in the list of jockeys by a long way, securing 8 firsts and 4 seconds in 16 mounts. Mr. Cox had 4 firsts, 5 seconds, and 2 thirds in 14 mounts.—The Foochow Autumn Meeting takes place on the 8th inst. and following days.

The S. Andrew's Stakes were run last Saturday at Shanghai in ideal weather. There were only three starters, so that the race was a somewhat tame one. The distance was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and *Mullah* won easily by a length. The order of finishing was:—Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's *Mullah* (Mr. P. Crighton), 1; Mr. C. Barff's *Cheap Jack* (Mr. Willeumier), 2; Mr. F. Gove's *Usui* (Mr. E. U. Reid), 3.

(Daily Press, 12th November.)

At noon to-day the cricket match between the Interport XI and the Rest of the H.K.F.C. will be resumed on the Cricket Ground. Last Saturday the game left off in the position that the Interport team had scored 235, while the Rest had put together 78 for 4 wickets. As F. Maitland is playing in the bowling match between the Hongkong and German Clubs, he will not turn out for the Rest, the substitute taking his place being A. G. M. Fletcher. Other cricket matches of interest to-day will be the League games between the H.K.C.C. Reserves and the Civil Service C.C., Craigenower C.C. v. Parsee C.C., and R.E. v. H.M.S. *Tamar*. It looks at present as if the H.K.C.C. Reserves and the Parsees were likely to have to fight for last place on the League table; but the premier club certainly ought to be able to get a much stronger reserve team together than has so far been done. To-day they are very weak.

The League table stands as follows:—

	Pl.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
A.O.C. ...	6	5	1	0	15
Civil Service ...	4	3	0	1	10
R.E. ...	4	2	2	0	6
Craigenower ...	5	1	2	2	5
R.A.M.C. ...	4	1	2	1	4
H.M.S. <i>Tamar</i> ...	3	1	2	0	3
H.K.C.C. "A" ...	2	0	2	0	0
Parsees ...	2	0	2	0	0

The V. R. C. regatta is close on hand; arrangements in connection therewith are for the most part completed. Wednesday and Thursday next are the days fixed. The V. R. C.

crew contesting with the Boat Club for the Challenge Cup is:—A. E. Alves (stroke), G. H. Rubi (2), C. E. A. Hance (3), F. D. Bain (bow), and a cox. The V.R.C. at first had another team, of which J. Millar was stroke, but this has been scratched. The Boat Club crews entered for the Challenge Cup and International Race are:—(1) C. McI. Messer, C. Beavis, A. R. Rouse, F. W. Warre, and a cox. (2) A. Toelke, H. Brandes, C. Brehmer, W. O. Koehler, and B. Siebs (cox). The Championship contest appears greatly in favour of the Boat Club; their crew is a strong one, and, in my opinion, in much better form than Alves's lot.

Three crews from both V.R.C. and Boat Club have entered for the Ladies' Prize. Two of the Boat Club's crews are those entered for the Championship Cup and International Race; the third is as follows:—Konig, Berner, Carpenter, Hughes, and Kennett (cox). The V.R.C. crews are:—C. H. Rubi, C. A. Hance, H. C. Austen, A. E. Alves, C. M. S. Alves (cox), F. M. Rosa Pereira, J. A. S. Alves, J. Miller, S. A. Musso, F. W. White (cox), F. Gidley, S. Gidley, J. Witchell, R. C. Witchell, E. Shepherd (cox).

Regarding the International Race at the Regatta, I would give preference to England; Germany, however, is pretty strong. Quite a number of naval boats are entering for open events, and there are six entries for the Tub Sculling Race. There will be a boys' race also, for which Queen's College and the Diocesan School have entered.

Quite a number of yachts, the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club figuring prominently, have entered for the Sailing Race of the V. R. C. Regatta. I understand that handicaps, etc., will be arranged on the basis of those used by the Yacht Club.

No Royal Hongkong Yacht Club race towards this season's championship will be sailed to-day or to-morrow, but, as notified in the *Daily Press* yesterday, there will be a Ladies' Race for a prize presented by Col. L. F. Brown, R. E. The fifth Club Race will be sailed on Saturday, the 19th inst., and Sunday, the 20th, the Championship Class sailing on the Saturday.

The Canton Regatta, taking place on the 18th and 19th inst., the two days following the V.R.C. Regatta, ought to prove a great success. One of the events, I understand, is to be a single-scull race. Hongkong crews leave on Friday evening, the 18th inst., arriving at Canton next morning. Crews entered for the Light Gigs race are:—*Powerful*, S. R. Moore, A. J. Mackie, J. Cruickshank (cox); *Terrible*, E. Humphreys, F. W. White, H. M. Bain (cox); *Jubilee*, G. Rapp, R. Busso, A. E. Asger (cox). Hongkongists who can get away ought to go up and back them up.

Cyclists are taking full advantage of the opportunity afforded for training on the Taikeo track in view of the forthcoming sports. The handicappers are keeping their eyes open for form, and those cyclists who turn out even at daybreak find someone present taking note. Since last sports the ranks of racing cyclists in the Colony have been numerously added to. McKirdy and Austen are generally favoured for the event—the 5 Mile Open—but they have to face some competitors whose abilities cannot be despised. L. Tweomey, I believe, has raced at the Crystal Palace and shows good form. Forbes and Palmer are going strong. Among other probable starters are R. Witchell, Stevenson(?), Kruse, Sinclair, Holmes, and a sportsman whose swarthy complexion bespeaks the Asiatic. Barring "dark horses," the three I have named first should be in the front when the line is crossed.

So far as the flat racing is concerned, the Half Mile is the event that will draw out the talent of the Colony. There is a lot of hard training going on "on the quiet." I have not heard of anything however that should spoil Kinnaird's chances, handicapping permitting. But J. Watson should give him a stiff encounter for premier honours.

An Adelaide telegram at the end of last month anticipated a series of victories for the English cricket team in Australia after their handsome win over New South Wales, the strongest State team in Australia. The first test match was to commence yesterday at Sydney, concluding on Tuesday next. The result will be looked for eagerly. It is plain that Mr. Warner's men have so far more than played up to their reputations. With regard to the probable Australian team to meet them, a *plebiscite* started by one of the Australian papers gave the following names:—Hill, Trumper, Armstrong, Duff, Noble, Kelly, Laver, Saunders, Hopkins, Jennings, Howell. Emergencies—Marsh, Travers, and Hack.

OMPAX.

CRICKET.

INTERPORT XI. v. REST OF H.K.C.C.

It has been decided to continue this game, which commenced on the Cricket Ground on the 5th inst. to-day so that there is every prospect of a finish. The Interport team took the field without Lumsden and Cooper, and the twelfth man, A. R. Lowe, being also unable to play, T. C. Gray, who was in Shanghai with the team, and Capt. Nicholas, B.N., were brought in to make up the eleven. It was a little after 12.15 when Turner and R. Hancock went to the wicket for the Interport team, who had won the toss. A bad start was made, as at 5 Turner was bowled by Wall. However, on Pearce joining Hancock a stand was made and runs came at a good pace until tiffin time, when the board read 44-1-1. On resumption both batsmen got to work soon, and changes of bowling were without avail. It was not until 83 had been put on for the second wicket that Hancock fell a victim to Rimington, with a steady 27 to his credit. Dixon was next in, but after making one run was bowled by Chichester. H. Hancock followed him and soon brought the 100 up. The same batsman quite outpaced Pearce in the rate of scoring, though Pearce was by no means idle. Consequently the bowlers had a poor time indeed, though frequently relieved. It was not until 177 that Pearce succumbed for an excellent 79. Ward came in, and it was now settled that the game should go on next Saturday, so that no declaration of the innings was necessary. A bad spell followed for the Interportmen, Ward leaving at 191, Arthur at 201, and Nicholas at 205. On Gray coming to the wicket the rot was stopped, and Hancock's score began to approach Pearce's. Curiously enough, when it did reach 79, Chichester cut it short. The innings was a fine effort, including 13 fours and made up of a variety of good strokes. 226 for 8. Bird failed to score, and at 235 Gray was bowled for a serviceable 18, Smith carrying his bat without scoring.

The Rest opened their innings with Maitland and Irwin to the bowling of Dixon and Pearce. Again the start was bad, Irwin being bowled at 14, and Maitland, after making 17 out of 25, following suit. De Paris and Wall then got together, and though Dixon's bowling puzzled both and bumped a good deal they managed to defy him and the other bowlers until 78 had been scored. Then R. Hancock in his first over dismissed Wall, while Rimington, who succeeded him, left without an addition to the score. Stumps were then drawn for the day, the board reading 78-4-0. The game will be resumed on Saturday next, as we have said. Present scores and analysis:—

INTERPORT TEAM.	
W. C. D. Turner, b Wall	1
T. E. Pearce, b Wall	79
B. Hancock (capt.), b Rimington	27
J. T. Dixon, b Chichester	1
H. Hancock, b Chichester	79
A. G. Ward, l.b.w., b Wall	5
H. Arthur, c Maitland, b Wall	5
Capt. Nicholas, B.N., b Chichester	1
T. C. Gray, b Chichester	18
E. E. O. Bird, b Chichester	0
Lieut. Smith, R.A., not out	0
Extras	19
Total	235
REST OF CLUB.	
F. Maitland, b J. T. Dixon	17
A. Irwin, B.N., b J. T. Dixon	1
Eng. Lieut. de Paris, R.N., not out	17
Eng. Lieut. Wall, R.N., c sub. (Ward), b R. Hancock	33
Lieut. Rimington, S.F., b H. Hancock	0
Extras	13
Total (4 wickets)	78

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

INTERPORT TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wall	21	1	76	4
Sercombe Smith	12	3	48	—
Rimington	9	—	31	1
Chichester	13.4	3	43	5
Lee	2	—	18	—

FOOTBALL.

H.K. R.F.C. v. A NAVAL TEAM.

Played on the 5th inst. on the Happy Valley ground, this game resulted in a victory for the Naval team by 5 tries (15 points) to 1 goal from a mark (4 points). The Navy team on this occasion took ample revenge for the heavy defeat inflicted by the homesters on a representative fifteen of the "lads in blue" last week, and throughout the game proved themselves smarter on the ball and more accurate in their bouts of passing than their opponents; but the real cause of their victory was a decided superiority in working the scrums. This, however, was discounted by the feeble attempts to score from the goal-kicks, they not being able to convert any of the five tries gained.

The Club won the toss and set up an attack on the Naval goal, and a minor was conceded. From the drop out the Naval three-quarters got going, but were checked before getting dangerous, and from the resulting scrum the home team secured the ball and attacked in turn. Play was hereabouts of a fairly even character, the defence on both sides proving equal to all emergencies. Scrums were frequent, and both Hurdon and Stoye for the Navy found touch. The Navy were now confining the game to the home twenty-five, and Devenille spoilt a fine chance of getting across the line by holding the ball too long. However, they were not to be denied, and Bigg at length broke through and grounded the ball. Hurdon's kick for goal was unsuccessful. The Navy were now playing a fine game, the three-quarters exhibiting fine combination, and in spite of the Club forwards' efforts, were more than holding their own. The Club, from a break-away, obtained a free kick, but could turn it to no account. Then from a scrum Parker secured the ball, and evading all opposition got over the line. Again the kick was futile. Stoye, who was playing a sterling game, almost succeeded in getting through on several occasions. However, it was only a matter of time for the Navy to score again, and at length Bigg crowned a splendid run by grounding behind the posts; again the goal kick failed. The score at half time was:—The Naval Team—3 tries (9 points); H.K. R.F.C.—0. On resuming, the home three-quarters tried to get away, but bad passing nullified their efforts, Barnes, however, at length got placed, and scored a pretty mark-goal for the Club. The Naval team again got into the home twenty-five, but from a scrum Crake relieved the pressure with a powerful punt up the field. They were not to be denied, however, and Stoye got away and ran through all opposition and got across. The goal-kick was successful, but was disallowed by the referee. The Club were now showing to better advantage, but were unable to score, and with Devenille again getting over for the Navy the game ended—

Naval Team—5 tries (15 points.)

H.K.R.F.C.—1 goal from a mark (4 points.)

The teams were:—

H.K.R.F.C.—W. A. Crake, back; O. J. Barnes, W. R. Robertson, Lieut. P. H. Campbell, and K. A. Selanders, three-quarters; A. G. N. Fletcher and A. Gordon, halves; E. R. Hallifax, E. O. C. Wolfe, H. F. Chard, H. C. Sandford, A. Boyd, Lieut. Dutton, P. S. Jamieson, and Lieut. E. Rogers, forwards.

The Navy—Hurdon, back; Stoye, King, Parker, and Bigg, three-quarters; Davis and Devenille, halves; Barnby, Formby, Rice, Kellett, Smith, Rowley, Rieve, and Cornaby, forwards.

Referee, Mr. T. G. B. Davies.

All the Japanese newspapers of Tokyo unite in saying that a long telegram reached the Russian Legation from S. Petersburg on the forenoon of the 21st instant, and that its contents seem to have been at once communicated to the Foreign Office. Nothing, however, is known as to the contents of the message, and the *Japan Mail* doubts its existence.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The following cards were returned for the meeting held from the 5th to the 7th December:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. J. E. Lee	88	—	10	=	78
Mr. H. W. Shallard	94	—	14	=	89
Dr. C. W. May	86	—	5	=	81
Dr. A. J. Williams	95	—	13	=	82
Mr. E. A. Pam	98	—	15	=	83
Mr. K. McK. Ross	94	—	10	=	84
Mr. N. J. Stabb	96	—	12	=	84
Hon. G. Stewart	89	—	4	=	85
Mr. H. C. Sandford	104	—	18	=	86
Mr. W. C. D. Turner	100	—	11	=	89
Mr. T. C. Gray	108	—	16	=	92

27 entries.

POOL.

Mr. J. E. Lee	88	—	10	=	78
Mr. C. W. May	86	—	5	=	81
Mr. E. A. Ram	98	—	15	=	83
Mr. N. J. Stabb	96	—	12	=	84
Hon. G. Stewart	89	—	4	=	85
Mr. T. C. Gray	108	—	16	=	92

14 entries.

SHOOTING.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION v. NAVAL RANGE STAFF.

This match was fired on the 5th instant on the Kowloon Rifle Range and resulted in a win for the Naval Range-Staff by 30 points. The conditions were 7 shots over the 200, 500 and 600 yards ranges. Teams of ten aside and the best eight to count. The Association team were somewhat handicapped, Mr. Parkes, one of their best shots, being at the last moment unable to attend. The Hon. Secretary had thus unexpectedly to take his place—a very poor substitute, and even then the Association team were one man short and shot nine against their opponents' full team. Scores:—

N.R. STAFF.

Sergt.-Instr. Davies	32	31	33	—	96
Mr. Denner, P.G.O.	31	32	32	—	95
J. Rippon, G.O.I.	32	34	29	—	95
Col.-Sergt. Cross	32	34	29	—	95
Sergt.-Instr. Griffiths	31	28	33	—	92
Pte. Evans	32	30	29	—	91
S. Chase, P.O.I.	34	28	27	—	89
G. Allen, P.O.I.	31	29	27	—	87

740

Counted out, 83 & 58.

ASSOCIATION.

Corp. Angus, R.E.	32	33	32	—	97
R. Lapaley	33	34	29	—	96
Sapper Robertson, R.E.	30	31	32	—	93
A. Watson	29	30	32	—	91
Sergt. Thornhill, R.E.	31	29	30	—	90
Sapper MacEwen, R.E.	32	30	26	—	88
W. Pitt	31	20	27	—	78
J. Pidgeon	27	27	23	—	77

710

Counted out, 65.

A QUEEN'S ROAD JOSS-HOUSE.

Curious, typically Chinese, and filthy to a degree are the first impressions of the Hung Sing Wang, a Chinese joss-house in Queen's Road East. On one side it is bounded by a shop, on the other by a curious admixture of rock and decayed masonry. It fronts Queen's road; over the back may be seen a green slope of hillside. The roof is "supported" by stone lions; it is of green glazed tiles surmounted by lines of protruding cement-work, profusely sculptured in curious designs. Chinese characters, as well as gilt-work that has seen better days, are plentifully scattered over the facing of the building. Walls themselves are of carved granite and dark-coloured brick-work. Pieces of coloured paper hang over the central gate-way. Such a building, indeed, makes a curious picture amongst the modern structures around it. On entering, a caretaker, or priest—it would be hard to say which, for, unlike the Buddhist monk he wears a queue—puts his rice-bowl and chop-sticks on one side, asking in pidgin English "Look see P' All within the building is grime; thousands and thousands of joss-sticks have smouldered away in the big brass pot. Now, absence of smoke bespeaks lack of virtue. The gentleman

in charge lit a red bamboo-wick dip; he held it close to the altar. As to what comprised the central *sanctum sanctorum* it would be hard to say; a profusion of dirty lanterns, banners, and imitation fruit and flowers, surrounded it. There were, also, jars of sticks bearing characters in Chinese. After *chin-chinning* joss, the worshipper has a dip at the jar for divine instruction. There is a second altar to some other deity in a side chapel; a third is upstairs. The rest of the building on the upper floor is empty; it has indeed, a weird geography. There seems to have been no particular design in the constructor's mind; that, however, was a long time ago. On taking leave of the holy man he held out claw-like fingers demanding "one, two dollar *cumsha*"; he got 20 cents. It would be hard to say whether the religious Chinese, or the sacrilegious tourist gives our holy friend the most.

A BRITISH POSSESSION NEAR HONGKONG.

LAMMA ISLAND.

Of the numerous islands attached to the Colony of Hongkong, excepting, of course Hongkong itself, Lamma is one of the largest. A company of Hongkongites armed themselves with shot-guns, and went there to look for birds, a few days ago. Landing from the steam launch on the eastern shore, not a great distance from Boulder Point, the northernmost projection, three pigeons were observed; they, however, were the only birds seen during the day. Setting out up country at a brisk pace through occasional—not many—paddy fields, beautiful partridge ground was traversed; the only thing wanting was the partridges. Long before villages were reached, woolly backed chow-dogs gave the alarm of *fan-kwai*. How Chinese dogs, unaccustomed to foreigners, do bark when an European approaches! Something, indeed, like water-buffaloes in Malaysia, when the great pot-bellied beasts charge like fury at Europeans who are only rescued from sudden death by little Malay boys, who run up and lead the savage beasts away. A goodly quantity of brushwood, trees, etc., were to be seen in the vicinity of the villages. Here and there was a patch of sweet potatoes or other vegetables around the mud-huts, into each of which some dozen persons were huddled. There were the usual poultry and pigs, but no other animals. Villagers themselves were nice people. Indeed, after seeing such good nature and hospitality, it is hard to believe some of the hair-raising stories of Kwangsi atrocities. As far as could be seen, the chief industries are fishing, gathering wood, and cutting grass. After a very unsuccessful, but not unpleasant day, the party returned with one solitary pigeon. Better luck next time. One thing about Lamma Island is that it is not far off; it is, by sea, about five miles distant from Victoria City.

Lamma Island is an ideal little spot; the fact of its having attracted a fair population speaks for itself. Inhabitants are, for the most part, law-abiding people with no further ambition than to live and die as their forefathers did. It does not require a great police force to keep them in order. At the same time, it must be remembered that, as in Kwangsi at the present day, there once was a time, not so far back either, when inhabitants of places like Lamma Island had, for protection's sake, to throw in their lot with rebels, brigands, and others of like nature, who infested the China Seas. From north to south, Lamma Island is about four miles long; the greatest breadth is about two miles and a quarter. For a great part it is bordered by a sandy beach; there are numerous places to effect a comfortable landing. In spite of there being a goodly area of low-lying land, hillocks abound. The highest peak is 1,140 feet above the sea level, another is 791 feet; about 400 feet would be the average. Picnic Bay, situated on the east coast, is an ideal spot for trippers; sheltered little nook for camping out abound in the numerous valleys. Who knows but what some day Lamma Island will be the watering place for Hongkong? Bathing can be enjoyed there without fear of sewage. When such comes to pass Macao, certainly, may look for another occupation.

HONGKONG.

Another big claim of land on the Kowloon side, said to represent something like one million dollars, is pending in the Land Court.

New styles of caps seem to be the order of the day among the military. Both Engineers and Artillery are sporting new shapes and colours.

Mr. R. H. Craig, Governor of Victoria Gaol, started for England on leave on the 9th inst. by the German mail. During his absence Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Chief Clerk at the Magistracy, will act in his stead.

The amount realised by the Bazaar held in the City Hall on the 9th inst. on behalf of the *Asile de la Sainte Enfance* was the substantial sum of \$2,612. The Reverend Mother Superior of the French Convent begs to thank all the ladies who assisted as stallholders as well as the public who patronised the sale.

Mr. R. Ponsonby, the new private secretary to H. E. the Officer Administering the Government arrived from Ceylon by the *Simla*, landing from the Government launch *Victoria* at Blake Pier on Monday morning. He appeared to be tired out after the rough passage. Mr. Ponsonby acted as private secretary to H. E. Sir Joseph West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., during his term of office as Governor of Ceylon.

On the 5th instant, when Police-Sergeant and Mrs. Gordon returned home to the station at Kowloon City, after the Naval and Military Masonic Installation celebrations, they found their quarters burned out. The fire had completely gutted the sergeant's three rooms situated on the top floor, but it had been stayed before doing further damage to the building. Sergeant Gordon was obliged to go around in his dress suit on the 6th inst.

At the Masonic Hall on the 8th inst. Bro. W. H. Woolley was installed Worshipful Master of the United Service Lodge, No. 1341, by Deputy District Grand Master E. C. Ray, assisted by the Grand Lodge officers. After the ceremony about 120 sat down to a banquet, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The officers for the year are as follows:—W. M. Wor. Bro. W. H. Woolley; Wor. I. P. M., Bro. H. W. Wolfe; S. W., Bro. J. W. Varcoe, J. W., Bro. H. G. Baker; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. H. J. Watson; Secretary, Wor. Bro. W. L. Ford; S. D., Bro. J. Gimblett; J. D., Bro. J. Hicks; Organist, Bro. J. T. Longstaff; D. C., Bro. C. W. Tuckwell; I. G., Bro. F. H. Ashford; Stewards, Bros. M. Taylor and J. T. Hawks; Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

While the new river-steamer *Kinshan*, recently built by the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Company, for the Hongkong, Canton, & Macao Steamboat Company, was coming down from Canton, en route for Hongkong, the other morning, her rudder carried away. The vessel was steered by means of her twin screws for the rest of the passage; so well, indeed, did she steer that for several minutes at a stretch the engines did not require touching. After discharging her cargo, she went over to the Kowloon Docks. It cannot be conceived how the rudder came to drop off. Something may have struck it when the helm was hard over. Unlike sea-going steamers, the *Kinshan's* rudder was not attached to the vessel's counter by chains, so, when it carried away, sank. The *Kinshan* went into dock.

The Colonial Secretary informed us last week that a telegram was received on the 8th inst., from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Batavia stating that Hongkong has been declared to be infected with plague. This display of crass stupidity on the part of the Netherlands-Indian Government is annual, so that no particular notice need be taken of it. As it has been suggested that it is owing to local newspapers taking notice of the Sanitary Board returns that Hongkong is so undeservedly quarantined, we may point out that Netherlands-India does not depend on Hongkong newspapers for its information any more than Hongkong depends on Batavian papers for its news of the declaration of quarantine.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. E. A. Griffiths is the new British Consul at Kobe.

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Commander E. Winthrop, to the *Pembroke*, for the *Goliath* (N), to date November 22.

The Hankow-Peking Railway has extended its line to the banks of Han, and there is now a station at the west end of Hankow, which will of course lead to the development of the city in that quarter.

It is officially announced in Tokyo that Japan's total revenue for the fiscal year 1904-1905 amounts to 252,159,113 yen, which shows a decrease of 7,900,000 on that of the current fiscal year.

Five days' severe fighting took place in Jolo against the Moros, from the 12th to the 17th ult., when 300 Moros were killed and a large number wounded, while the American casualties were very slight.

The engagement is announced in Manila of Lieut. Q. Stirling, R.N., son of Admiral Stirling, of the U. S. Navy, to Miss Egbert, daughter of the late Colonel Egbert, who was killed in the Philippines in 1899.

Mr. W. F. Stevenson, formerly P. & O. Agent at Manila, died in Colombo on the 17th ult. He was on his way out to Hongkong in the P. & O. S.S. *China*, with Mrs. Stevenson, when he had to break his journey at Colombo.

The premises of Messrs. Kingsell & Co., Main St., Yokohama, were burnt down on the 22nd ult. The loss was covered to the extent of 3,000 yen in the Yorkshire, and 13,000 yen in the Norwich Union Fire Offices.

It is reported that there is a marked movement on the part of Yokohama Chinese to become Japanese subjects. Twelve recently obtained papers of naturalisation and forty-eight have now applied for the same privilege.

A mission, consisting of four Belgian lieutenants, specially nominated by King Leopold, will proceed to China next month with the object of completing the survey of the Hankow-Canton railway now in course of construction. The head of the mission, Lieutenant Pontus, is the son of a former Minister of War, and has already distinguished himself in the diplomatic service.

L'Echo de Chine regretfully records the death of the eldest son of Admiral Bayle, of the French squadron in China. The Admiral arrived in Shanghai on the 23rd ult., when he received the sad news. The deceased young officer had served in the Chinese campaign under General Voyron. The Admiral was much grieved on receiving the intelligence and left for Ningpo, where he was to remain for a few days.

We understand that at the last meeting of the Committee of the local branch of the China Association, Mr. G. W. Playfair, being desirous of relinquishing outside work other than that connected with his banking business, owing to a temporary affection of his eyes, resigned the Chairmanship. Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox, who had been acting as Chairman during Mr. Playfair's recent absence in England, was appointed in his place.

The death is reported of Commander G. M. K. Fair, of the Naval Intelligence Department, on the 3rd ult. from an attack of typhoid fever. He entered the service as a cadet in January, 1883, was lieutenant of H.M.S. *Centurion* during the Boxer outbreak in China in 1900, and during Admiral Sir Edward Seymour's expedition in June was employed on the staff of the Intelligence Department, and getting along the junks with wounded. In September of this year he was appointed flag-lieutenant to the Admiral.

It is stated from Chinan, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, that Governor Chou Fu has sanctioned the placing of Chinese Railway police along the new line from Kioochau to Chinan. At the more populous towns the railway stations are to be each provided with from eight to ten policemen under one sergeant and a corporal. It was at first proposed to raise a stronger force of Chinese Government patrolmen for the railway, but there being not enough money available, the Governor had to be contented with the above-noted arrangements.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. in their last Circular states:—**BLACK TEA.**—Since our last advice we have to report an eager demand for good common Congou, and such quality has been cleared off the market at 17s. 16-17½ per picul. We think most of the buying has been for the Russian market. **GREEN TEA.**—The small stock of Country Tea remaining when we last wrote has either been sold or "shipped off," and the market for these teas is closed. Some further local packs have been shown, and part have found buyers at easy rates, the quality of the majority of these teas is very low. **Pingsuey.**—A small business has passed at unchanged prices. Stock amounts to 9,000 half-chests of common teas. **Foong Mees and Sou Mees.**—The market for Foong Mees has strengthened, but Sou Mees remain unaltered. The stock is small, consisting of 1,500 half-chests. **Hyson.**—The market is quiet and a softening in prices is noticeable; although the stock is large, viz., 15,000 half-chests teamen are not forcing sales.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, in their circular dated 3rd December, state:—The home market is quiet; prices unchanged. **Raw Silk.**—Since the date of our last issue there has been little business doing. **Yellow Silk.**—A small business has been transacted in Mienchews at slightly reduced prices. **Hand Filatures.**—A small business has been done in new style Filatures for New York. **Steam Filatures.**—Nothing doing. **Waste Silk.**—There exists a good demand for Gum Waste at easier rates.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th December.—The tone of the market has improved and the prices are consequently going downward.

Shakloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.60 to \$8.65	pcis
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60	"
Do. " No. 1, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.00	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.45 to 8.50	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.45 to 7.50	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.65 to 5.70	"
Foehow Sugar Candy.....	12.85 to 12.90	"
Shakloong ".....	10.75 to 10.80	"

RICE.

HONGKONG 11th December.—The upward tendency continues, holders being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.10 to \$3.15
" Round, Good quality.....	4.75 to 4.80
" Long.....	5.00 to 5.05
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.75 to 3.80
" Garden, " No. 1.....	4.40 to 4.45
" White,.....	4.90 to 4.95
" Fine Cargo.....	5.35 to 5.40

OPIUM.

11th December.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New.....	\$960 to \$980 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$1,000 to \$1,020 do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1,040 to \$1,060 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,080 to \$1,100 do.
Persian fine quality.....	810 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	820 to — do.
Patna New.....	\$1,185 to — per chest.
Patna Old.....	— to — do.
Benares New.....	\$1,185 to — do.
Benares Old.....	— to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORT.

HONGKONG, 20th Nov.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
Fine.....	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds.....	5.00 to 8.00

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.30 to 2.80
7lbs. (32 "), " ..	2.50 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.50 to 3.00
7lbs. (32 "), " ..	3.10 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½	4.75 to 7.30
to 14 lbs.)	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.)	1.80 to 4.00
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Brocades—Dyed	— to —
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DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	0.12 to 0.25
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.25 to 0.47½
Velveteens—18 in.	0.19 to 0.23

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.30 to 3.00
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WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.77½ to 2.25
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.50

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.95 to 9.30
Assorted	7.10 to 9.45
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 33.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	12.50 to 22.50
Assorted	
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 0.80
Fine quality	1.25 to 1.85

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar	4.25 to —
Small Round Rod	4.60 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.50 to —
Wire, 16, 25 oz.	9.25 to —
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —

METALS—

Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.50 to —
Australian	8.50 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	40.00 to —
Vivian's 14 20 oz.	40.00 to —
Elliot's 14 20 oz.	40.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	38.50 to —
Tin.....	81.00 to —

Tin-Plates	7.30 to —
Steel ½ to ¾	6.30 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	164.00 to —
Window Glass	4.50 to —

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their piece goods trade report of 3rd December, state:—From the appearance of things there is a decidedly more confident feeling that troubles of a warlike nature are averted at least for the present, but this may only be the lull before the storm. If, according to current reports, there is any truth in the rumours that Japan is willing to let Russia, after all, have a free hand in Manchuria, in return for a like concession on her part with regard to Corea the tension may be relaxed *pro tem.*—but what about the stipulation in the United States Treaty with reference to the opening of certain inland cities, misnamed Ports? That may possibly be the contingency Japan is relying on to help her; it is thought, however, the whole complexion of the situation may be changed when the Diet meets in Tokyo on the 6th inst., and until then it is an open question what may happen. Although there is a fair demand from the outports generally, and especially from Tientsin, the dealers find themselves unable to buy, as a rule owing to the firmness of holders. Some of the latter, however, are taking advantage of the opportunity of getting rid of old stocks that have hung fire for months past, and are obtaining comparatively satisfactory prices. Buyers are also anxious to get hold of goods afloat, but importers refuse to name any prices at present. This of course comes about by the much stronger markets in Manchester and New York, and with the exception of a few specialties it is quite impossible to make any forward contracts. The truth of the reports concerning the probable shortness of the cotton crop in the States is evidently assured now,

and the price is rapidly advancing, the quotation for Mid-American coming yesterday 6.40d. With such a price so early in the season, when probably not more than two million bales have been marketed, it is little wonder the home markets are excited. At the same time Manchester is active owing to a sudden revival in the demand for India, that has been held back for so long, which leaves a very poor lookout for buyers for China. Nor can they satisfy their wants in the States, for there the home market has realised the necessity of buying promptly, and the situation is described as excited and active. Supplies here promise to be very light in the Spring, as there is no chance now of any material increase in the home export, the figures for last month being only 12,000,000 yards of Plain Cottons for Hongkong and Shanghai, which makes it certain that the total for the twelve months will be 33 per cent. less than last year. Tientsin is waking up at last, or at least is showing signs of more life, although rather late in the day. It is said the Shensi merchants are buying goods and have put the price of American Sheetings up two mace per piece, which purchases may account for part of the money recently withdrawn from the port. Clearances hence are improving and fair quantities are expected to be shipped before the 9th inst., when the last direct steamer will clear. The Port, however, will still be in touch with this via Chingwantao. There is no change apparent in chefoo, the market there being quiet but steady. For Szechuen there is quite a healthy demand now, especially for 8.4-lb. Shirtings, Fast Black Italians and Yarn, and an improvement is also noticeable in the offtake for the markets lower down the River. Hankow is taking White Shirtings more freely, while other makes are receiving rather better attention. Ningpo is buying the heavy makes of Shirtings more especially at present. The Korean trade is improving and goods of the favorite chops are going off with some freedom now.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per Steamer *Hamburg*, sailed on 25th November. For Colombo:—94 bags beans, 15 boxes glassware. For Aden:—750 bags sugar, 90 rolls chinaware, 20 bundles galangal. For Suez:—55 cases preserves, 2 cases essential oil, 4 cases silk. For Port Said:—12 rolls mattings. For Naples:—50 half-chests tea, 5 cases staranised oil. For Genoa:—400 boxes cassia, 227 bales raw silk, 51 bales waste silk, 25 cases essential oil, 25 boxes staranised. For Antwerp:—50 bales feathers. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—35 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—179 rolls matting, 75 cases ginger. For Amsterdam:—350 bales bamboo scraps, 204 bales canes. For Bremerhaven:—2 rolls matting. For Bremen:—519 half-chests tea, 20 cases preserves, 13 cases private effects. For Hamburg:—528 half-chests tea, 189 bales feathers, 150 boxes cassia, 22 cases bristles, 20 boxes cassia oil, 18 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases anised oil, 8 cases feathers, 4 bales rattanshawing, 4 cases sundries, 3 cases chinaware. For London:—173 rolls matting, 25 boxes cassia oil. For Copenhagen:—8 bales feathers.

Per Steamer *Polyphemus*, sailed on 28th November. For London:—24 packages private effects, Tea 2,050 boxes scented caper (43,050 lbs.), 75 cases chinaware, 4,132 bales hemp, 14 cases pitch, 6 cases nutmegs, 62 cases cigars, 63 cases gum, 113 cases shells, 400 buffalo hides, 10 packages stores, 23 cases bristles, 33 cases ginger, 100 casks ginger, 220 bales feathers, 50 casks ginger, 50 casks soy, 30 bales canes. For London and/or Glasgow:—200 casks ginger, 200 cases ginger. For Glasgow:—50 cases ginger. For London and/or Hamburg:—20 cases essential oil. For Havre and/or Antwerp:—20 rolls mats. For various ports:—35 packages sundries.

Per P. & O. Steamer *Chusan*, sailed on 5th Dec., For London:—1,502 boxes tea, 200 bales waste silk, 50 bales raw silk, 10 cases silk P. goods, 20 cases bristles, 5 cases hair, 4 cases feathers, 6 cases cigars, 7 cases sundries. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—290 bales raw silk, 1 box feathers. For Marseilles:—330 bales waste silk, 134 bales pierced cocoons, 100 bales raw silk, 4 cases hair, 1 case feathers. For London and/or Manchester:—125 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. Steamer *Formosa*, sailed on 11th December. For London:—305 half-chests tea from Amoy, 5,415 boxes tea, 1,430 rolls mats and matting, 100 casks preserves, 25 cases preserves, 113 cases chinaware, 15 cases vermilion, 5 cases feathers, 21 cases rattanware, 2 cases copperware, 21 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases cigars, 12 bales canes. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—5 cases woodware, 5 cases camphorwood trunks. For Gibraltar:—5 cases cigars.

HANKOW, 2nd. December.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected (Winter cargo) Tls.	33.00
Do. seconds	28.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	22.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour), ..	65.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	10.75
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	11.75
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	10.75
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	11.60
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ..	11.20
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchew and/or Machehg)	11.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ..	9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	14.00
Animal Tallow	11.00
Gallnuts (usual shape)	19.00
Do. (Plum) do.	20.50
Black Bristles	120.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ..	20.00
Turmeric	3.60
Sesamum Seed	3.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	7.60
Wood Oil,	7.80
Tea Oil	8.00

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th December, 1903.—Enquiry has continued active throughout the past week, and a fair volume of business has again been booked at current rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continue to rule firm, with sales at \$675, and probable further buyers at the rate. London quotes \$64 10s. 0d. There is no change in Nationals which are still enquired for at \$30.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been booked at \$437½, and more shares are procurable at \$490. China Traders are in the market at \$57 ex the dividend of \$4 per share for 1902 paid on the 9th inst. North Chinas, Yangtszes, and Can'tons are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have declined to \$310 with sales and further sellers Chinas are still on offer at \$90.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are easier with probable sellers at \$32½. Indo-Chinas have declined to \$75 sellers. China and Manilas and Douglases are unchanged with probable sellers at quotations. Star Ferries have been booked at \$29 and \$30 for the old issue, and \$19 and \$19½ for the new, closing with sellers of the former at \$30 and buyers of the latter at \$19. Shell Transports are easier with sellers at £1 2s. 0d. after sales at £1 2s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been the medium of a fair business at \$104 and \$105, closing steady at the latter rate. Luzons are still in the market at \$10.

MINING.—We have heard of no business under this head, and quotations are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have not attracted much attention, and the market closes with probable sellers at \$205. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have ruled firm with sales at \$91, \$91½ and \$92, closing with further buyers at the latter rate. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$38. Farnhams have declined in the North to Tls. 117½ with sales and further buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are firm with sales and buyers at \$151. Kowloon Lands and West Points are steady at \$35 and \$52½ respectively, with sales of the latter at quotation. Humphreys Estates have been booked at \$11 and close in request. Hongkong Hotels are more generally enquired for, and can now be placed at the advanced rate of \$148.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have advanced to Tls. 40. Hongkongs continue firm with buyers at \$15.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are firmer with buyers at \$24½. Watsons have again been booked at \$14½. China Borneos have been taken off the market at \$8. Electrics (old) have been booked, and are in further request at \$12½; the new issue can be procured at \$6½. China Providents have sold at \$9½, and Powells at \$9. Watkins are on offer at \$7½.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$675 L'don, £64. 10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$30, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$30, buyers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	21	\$5, sellers
Canton, Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8, sales
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.25
China Sugar	\$100	\$105
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	\$500	\$250
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$15, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laon Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 35
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 200
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$24½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$5	\$6½, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$320, sellers
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	{ \$15½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$148, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$245, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$93, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$205
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$175
China Fire	\$60	\$90, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$57, ex div. sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sellers
North China	225	Tls. 220
Union	\$100	\$490, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$151, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate.	\$10	\$11, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35
West Point Building	\$50	\$52½, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	50 cents, sellers
Punjom	\$11	\$1.50, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	30 cents
Raubs	18/10	\$8, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$38, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$18
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$32½
Indo-China S. N. ...	210	\$75, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	21. 2s. 0d. sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 117½, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$50, nominal
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	nominal
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, buyers
Do	\$10	\$210, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7½
Watson & Co., A. S...	\$10	\$14½, sales & sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 4th December.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their report dated 4th inst., state:—We have again to report a good business during the past week in our principal stocks, Indo-Chinas, Farnhams, and Langkats, and business has pretty much been confined to these. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/5½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. A very considerable rise has taken place in this stock, shares are wanted in the South at \$687½; it is currently believed that the Bank has had a phenomenal half year. The latest London quotation is £64. Marine Insurance.—Business has been done in North Chinas at Tls. 220 cash, and in Unions at \$737½ ex. 73. China Traders are wanted at \$60 and Yangtszes have been placed at \$135. Fire Insurance.—China Fires have been sent to Hongkong at \$37 ex. 7½. There are now buyers at \$88. Hongkong Fires are quoted nominal at \$315. Shipping.—Indo-

Chinas.—The market opened on the 27th ulto. with sales at Tls. 54 November and 55 December. On the 28th shares were placed at Tls. 54½ and 55 cash, 55 and 56 December and 54 March. 30th cash shares were placed at 56; on the 1st inst. shares were placed at 54 for March, and on the 2nd at 53½ cash. 55 December and 54/53 March. On the 3rd at 56 cash and 54 March. There is a demand for shares by short sellers for the December settlements. Douglases are wanted in Hongkong at \$30. Shanghai Tugs & Lighters. Preference shares have been placed at Tls. 57½. Docks & Wharves.—S. C. Farnham.—A considerable business has been done in these at fairly steady rates. The market opened on the 27th ulto. with sales at Tls. 125/126 November, 129/127 December, 127½ March. On the 28th 126 cash and December, 127½ March. On the 1st December 130 December and March. On the 2nd 129 cash, 130/128½ December, 127 February, 130/131/128 March, 131 April. On the 3rd 128 cash, 128½ December, 129 March. At closing the market is quiet, a sale being reported for March at Tls. 128. Hongkong & Whampoa Docks are quoted nom. \$207. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. A slight decline has taken place in these, business being done on the 1st inst. at Tls. 212½, on the 2nd 207½ and 212½ December. On the 3rd at 205 for cash. Kowloon Wharves are wanted at \$89. Sugars.—No business reported locally, and the quotations in Hongkong are nominal for Chinas and Luzons. Peraks. The directors have issued their report for the year. The working account shows a profit of Tls. 34,000, but after deducting interest and manager's commission the available balance is Tls. 24,406.64 which the directors propose to divide as follows:—A payment of dividend to shareholders of 5 per cent. absolving Tls. 17,500; to write off depreciation of plans and buildings Tls. 5,449.88, and to carry forward to next account Tls. 1,456.76. The prospects of this company in the immediate future are good. Mining.—No business reported. Industrial.—There has been a demand for Ewo Cottons resulting in business at Tls. 35. This has been the only cotton stock dealt in. Hongkong cottons are wanted in the South at \$15. China Flours have been dealt in at Tls. 75 and 80, there are buyers at the latter rate. Shanghai Pulps have been placed at Tls. 108½. Shanghai Gas at Tls. 170. Mantschappij, etc., in Langkats. A large business has been done in this at advancing rates: the market opened on the 27th with cash sales at Tls. 302½, 305/307½ Dec.; 317½, 320 March. On the 28th 305 cash, 308/310/307½ Dec. 320 March. 30th ulto. 307½; 310 cash. 312½ Dec. 325 March. 1st inst. 315 Dec., 310 cash, 325/330/327½ March, 335½ May. 2nd. 310/311 cash: 316½, 312½/315 Dec. 330/327½ March. 3rd. 312½ cash, 316½/315 Dec. 330 March. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 52. and are wanted. Stores & H. & S. —The only business reported is in Hall & Holtz at \$33 and in Astors at \$28. Miscellaneous.—Mercury shares have been placed at Tls. 55 and Telephones at Tls. 67. Loans.—No business reported, sellers at quotations.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 12th December.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand

ON GERMANY.—Credits 4 months' sight

On demand

ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand

Credits, 60 days' sight

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer

Bank, on demand

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight

Private, 30 days' sight

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand

ON MANILA.—

On demand

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand

ON BATAVIA.—On demand

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

ON SAIGON.—On demand

ON BANGKOK.—On demand

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

BAR SILVER, per oz.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

December—

4, Ayr, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 4, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 4, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 4, Germania, German str., from Tsingtau.
 4, Holstein, German str., from Swatow.
 4, Elise, German str., from Panarookan.
 4, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 4, Nauchang, British str., from Canton.
 4, Progress, German str., from Hoihow.
 4, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., from Manila.
 4, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 4, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
 5, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from H'phong.
 5, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
 5, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 5, Mathilde, German str., from Swatow.
 5, Prinsesse Marie, Dan. str., from Antwerp.
 5, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 5, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 5, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 5, Waishang, British str., from Canton.
 5, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
 6, Benlomond, British str., from London.
 6, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 6, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 6, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 6, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 6, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
 6, Hopsang, British str., from Hongay.
 6, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 6, Murex, British str., from Singapore.
 6, Pelayo, British str., from Shanghai.
 7, Glengarry, British str., from London.
 7, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 7, Indrasan, British str., from Portland.
 7, Leviathan, British str., from Weihaiwei.
 7, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 7, M. Struve, German str., from Haiphong.
 7, Pronto, German str., from Canton.
 7, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 7, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Foochow.
 7, Simla, British str., from Bombay.
 7, Selun, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 7, Teucer, British str., from Moji.
 7, Wingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 8, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
 8, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tam ni.
 8, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
 8, Glory, British battleship, from Kobe.
 8, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
 8, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
 8, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 8, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 8, Pakhoi, British str., from Moji.
 8, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 8, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 8, Woosang, British str., from Shanghai.
 8, Yunnan, British str., from Wuhu.
 9, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. F. Cisco.
 9, Edendale, British str., from Sourabaya.
 9, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 9, Hyson, British str., from Shanghai.
 9, Machow, German str., from Bangkok.
 9, Montcalm, French str., from Saddle Island.
 9, Orono, British str., from Amoy.
 9, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 9, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 9, Ulabrand, Norwegian str., from Karatsu.
 10, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
 10, Formosa, British str., from Foochow.
 10, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 10, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 10, Hupeh, British str., from Iloilo.
 10, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 10, Kiantochou, German str., from Bremen.
 10, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
 10, Suisang, British str., from Java.
 11, Ambria, German str., from Hamburg.
 11, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
 11, Clavering, British str., from Moji.
 11, Eclipse, British cruiser, from Kobe.
 11, Haiman, British str., from Tamsui.
 11, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 11, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 11, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 11, Vengeance, British battleship, from Kobe.
 11, Wuchang, British str., from Manila.
 12, Albion, British battleship, from Kobe.
 12, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
 12, Jelunga, British str., from Rangoon.
 12, Kashing, British str., from Shanghai.

12, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, Mercedes, British str., from Wellington.
 12, Pascal, French cruiser, from Foochow.
 12, Shakano Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 12, Taishan, British str., from Samarang.
 12, Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.

DEPARTURES.

4, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
 4, Denbighshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Deucalion, British str., for London.
 4, Ellen Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 4, Fausang, British str., for Wuhu.
 4, Glenshiel, British str., for London.
 4, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 4, Hermiston, British str., for New York.
 4, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 4, Perla, British str., for Manila.
 4, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., for Bangkok.
 4, Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 4, Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 4, Segovia, German str., for Calcutta.
 4, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Zafiro, U.S. transport, for Manila.
 5, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
 5, Deuteros, German str., for Wuhu.
 5, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 5, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
 5, Kong Beng, German str., for Singapore.
 5, Lydia, German str., for Chinkiang.
 5, Nanchang, British str., for Iloilo.
 5, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 5, Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 5, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 6, Ayr, Norwegian str., for Kutchinotzu.
 6, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hongay.
 6, Chinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Chwanshan, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 6, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Progress, German str., for Swatow.
 6, Shantung, British str., for Sourabaya.
 7, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 7, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
 7, Iltis, German gunboat, for Canton.
 7, Mathilde, German str., for Quinhon.
 7, Simla, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 7, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Akitsushima, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 8, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 8, Glendon, British ship, for Ajar.
 8, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 8, Helu Wymur, Amr. bge., for New York.
 8, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 8, Lightni g, British str., for Calcutta.
 8, Mandasan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notsu.
 8, Murex, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Pelayo, British str., for Singapore.
 8, Takachiho, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 9, Chuanang, British str., for Singapore.
 9, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 9, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 9, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 9, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 9, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 9, Madeleine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Canton.
 9, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 9, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.
 9, Sangkiang, British str., for Manila.
 9, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 10, Africa, Portuguese trspt., for Macao.
 10, Benlomond, British str., for Nagasaki.
 10, British Monarch, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
 10, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 10, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 10, Dardanus, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Elise, German str., for Port Valot.
 10, Glengarry, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Hyson, British str., for London.
 10, Phu Yen, French str., for Saigon.
 10, Selun, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 10, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 10, Yunnan, British str., for Canton.
 11, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 11, Kiantochou, Ger. str., for Shanghai, &c.
 11, Kohseichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 11, Kwangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Michael Jensen, German str., for Hoihow.
 11, M. Struve, German str., for Haiphong.
 11, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 11, Thales, British str., for Coast Port.
 11, Thetis, British cruiser, for Manila.
 11, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Waishang, British str., for Shanghai.

12, Formosa, British str., for London.
 12, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 12, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 12, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 12, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 12, Maidzuru Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 12, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Orono, British str., for New York.
 12, Rubi, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Chusan, from Shanghai, for London, Mrs. Kitley, Sergt. Rawlings, Messrs. J. Stewart, W. Kitley and J. Lee; for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Carret, Messrs. S. E. Moses, R. H. Periwai, A. Burman, Leo. Wilke, L. Goetschel, T. W. Mitchell, and C. McAslin; from Yokohama, Mrs. Pease, Sergt. Pritchard, Mr. E. H. Pease; from Yokohama, for Brindisi, Dr. James F. Browne.

Per Simla, for Hongkong, from London, Miss Lloyd; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Major-General and Mrs. Hatton, Mr. A. D. C. Ward; from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Rahim, Messrs. H. A. Cumriden, C. Mohiden, and Jakeria Hussan; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bourne and Mr. R. Ponsonby; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Beneri and child, Dr. Macauley, Messrs. M. Bakert, L. Herment, E. Brunnschiet, and Witton; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Hudson, child and infant, Messrs. Stedman and A. Hamond; from Marseilles, Mr. Y. des Francis; from Singapore, Mr. Adamson.

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DEPARTED.

Per Chusan, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. Jeffrey and J. Richards; for Colombo, Mr. W. B. Walker and Miss M. M. Day; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Rosen and Mr. N. F. Mithaiwalla; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Richards, Mrs. Maria C. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Sweeney, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Glasscock, Dr. Morrison, Messrs. P. Max Hayn, Wm. Wheatley, Hugo Bartholmae, Hugo James Bartholmae, Theo. Harbeck, John C. Wilson, and M. W. George; for Brindisi, Messrs. C. F. Osborn, C. E. Dewey, M. Abeles, J. Abeles, W. K. K. Moyer, and G. A. Aldrich; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dyer, Messrs. Jacob Willeumier, G. L. Brighton, and A. E. Kaesser; for London, Mrs. Davenport and child, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Williams, Miss Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Govet, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Kirk, Miss Emily A. Richings, Messrs. E. G. Williams, W. Brood, Stone, R.N., R. A. Percival, A. Burman, and Lieut. Fras. W. Blackwood; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kitley, Sergt. Rawlings, Messrs. J. Stewart and J. Lee.

Per Prinz Heinrich, from Hongkong, for Hamburg, Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Carpendale and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. A. Craig, Miss Craig, Mr. Craig, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Naegeli, Capt. and Mrs. Rieko, Mr. and Mrs. Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Wood, Misses A. W. Booth, Cornack, E. Eberhardt, H. S. Leighton, McLaven, Naka Ogawa, F. B. Patterson, Sophie Ross, M. A. Young-Southfield, Thomas, and J. Anderson, Messrs. J. Andrews, Barth. S. Bolongaro, James F. Brown, Charles, O. G. Cowie, Rev. Folker, W. Gronert, S. v. Gross, H. F. Gerritsen, S. Helf, W. v. d. Heyden, Hiltermann, S. Ingenohl, O. Johnston, Linder, F. Metzenthien, J. W. Pritchard, Saurma Jeltsch, Schliebs, Sievers, Dr. Senf, Stafford Hill, Dr. Steinbruck, Trieb and Wrege.

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